ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC

A place for every citizen

Activity Report

OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
OF QUÉBEC

2006-2007

www.assnat.qc.ca

On the cover:

The new institutional signature, adopted by the authorities of the National Assembly in November 2006, has been used on the cover page of this Activity Report. Additional information on the logo is provided on page 41.

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This publication was accomplished with the collaboration of the executive personnel and staff from all administrative branches of the National Assembly. Unless otherwise indicated, the data provided in this report concerns the activities of the National Assembly from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

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Highlights 2006-2007

DISSOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

On 21 February 2007, on the recommendation of the Premier, two orders-in-council were adopted by the Cabinet. The first ordered the dissolution of the National Assembly and the summoning of a new Assembly for 1 May 2007, and the second asked the Chief Electoral Officer to hold a general election on 26 March 2007. The 37th Legislature thus ended.

TWO COMMITTEES TRAVEL TO NORTHERN QUÉBEC

Two committees travelled to Northern Québec within the framework of orders of initiative. The Committee on Transportation and the Environment was the first to travel to Northern Québec to weigh the issues with regard to climate warming in Nunavik. The Committee on Education then in turn flew to Northern Québec and the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region to learn about the issues surrounding the school drop-out rate of Natives.

VISIT OF A COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) held one of its meetings at the National Assembly, from 25 to 27 October 2006, thus enabling the holding of working meetings with several Québec Members. They especially examined the fields of jurisdiction of the National Assembly as well as climate change. The PACE has 46 members (the 25 member States of the European Union and the countries of central and eastern Europe).

UNVEILING OF THE ROBERT BOURASSA MONUMENT AND INAUGURATION OF THE *LIRE BOURASSA* EXHIBITION

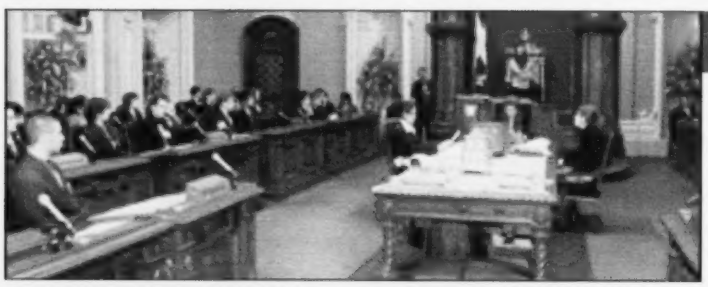
On 19 October 2006, a bronze statue was erected in the gardens of the Parliament Building in honour of Mr. Robert Bourassa, Premier of Québec from 1970 to 1976 and from 1985 to 1994. On the same day, the Library of the National Assembly launched the *Lire Bourassa* exhibition, which allowed visitors to discover books and articles having been written by Mr. Bourassa during his political career and others that were written about him.

NEW PROGRAMMES ON THE ASSEMBLY CHANNEL

With a view to better understanding the role of a Member, the Channel of the National Assembly added two new items to its programming: 18 information vignettes entitled *À la découverte de l'Assemblée*, revealing the inner workings of the Assembly, and the series entitled *Mémoires de députés*, providing a forum for former Québec Members to discuss the more memorable moments of their career.

LE QUÉBEC, SES DÉPUTÉS, SES RÉGIONS EXHIBITION

Since December 2006, a vast gathering of hearts and spirits has descended upon the Parliament Building during the multimedia exhibition entitled *Le Québec, ses députés, ses régions*. With photographs and interactive touch screens on display, visitors are invited to travel through the 17 administrative regions of Québec and to hear the Members bear witness to their pride in representing their region.



15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STUDENT FORUM

Established on the occasion of the Bicentennial of parliamentary institutions in 1992, the *Student Forum* is one of the first parliamentary simulations of the National Assembly. Developed especially for college-level students, it has welcomed close to 2000 participants during its 15 years of existence.

Preface

I am pleased to present to you the *Activity Report of the National Assembly of Québec for 2006-2007* which provides an overview of the many achievements of the Members and of the administrative personnel, with regard to parliamentary work, activities developed for the citizens, parliamentary diplomacy, heritage preservation and the administrative sector. During this period, several events related to the parliamentary proceedings have marked our institution, beginning with the general election of 26 March 2007 and the opening of the 38th Legislature.

Ever searching to increase access to the citizens and to help them better understand the work of the Members, the Assembly launched a multimedia exhibition entitled *Le Québec, ses députés, ses régions*. This exhibition allows my colleagues and myself to show the pride that we feel as the ambassadors in our capital of the women and men that we represent. Furthermore, the Assembly Channel initiated the broadcasting of information vignettes entitled *À la découverte de l'Assemblée* as well as of a series of interviews with former parliamentarians entitled *Mémoires de députés*, all of which are also broadcast on the Internet site of the Assembly.

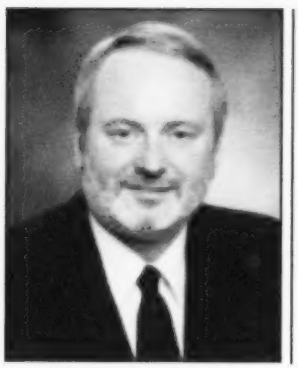
The Assembly has continued its objective to promote the participation of the population in the parliamentary proceedings. Hence, it held four on-line consultations within the framework of committee mandates and it provided young people with several educational activities, such as parliamentary simulations, which teach them about democracy. Incidentally, again this year these activities were highly successful since they welcomed over 700 participants.

I hope that this report will enable you to grasp the great diversity of our achievements as well as the concrete results observed in your daily lives, for which parliamentary proceedings are conducted.

The President of the National Assembly

Michel Bissonnet

Foreword



It is with great pride that I join the President in presenting to you this eighth annual report on the activities of the National Assembly. The year 2006-2007 was marked by the dissolution of the Assembly on 21 February and by a general election held on 26 March, requiring a series of actions and special measures that have taken up a lot of the energy from the personnel of the Assembly.

During the past year, constant professional and technical support was provided to the parliamentarians responsible for examining and debating the parliamentary reform proposals, be it through the preparation of numerous documents and technical files and through scenario development

The year that we have just completed also provided an opportunity to restore and highlight the Parliament buildings. The major restoration work carried out on the Parliament's central tower comes to mind, and it reflects the Assembly's concern for conserving its building heritage.

Much preparatory work was also conducted by the administrative personnel of the Assembly in vast sectors of activity, namely the computerization of the parliamentary proceedings, the deployment of the *Stratégie d'affaires en gestion intégrée des ressources* (SAGIR) and the design of the Assembly's new Internet site. We shall see the fruit of this labour in the coming months.

I wish to congratulate the personnel of the Assembly who, through unrelenting support of the work of the Members, contributes to the proper conduct of our institution and the vitality of our democracy.

The Secretary General

François Côté

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ITS MISSION

The National Assembly of Québec constitutes the foundation of the legislative power. It is composed of the Members elected by the population of Québec in each of the 125 electoral divisions. The responsibility of debating and passing bills and the budget lies with the Members. They also have the role of supervising the actions of the Government, particularly during Oral Questions and Answers and during the consideration of the Government's estimates of expenditure, and of discussing matters of public interest.

The duration of the collective term of office of these Members, which is called a «legislature», is provided for in the Constitution and may not exceed five years.

The National Assembly and the Lieutenant-Governor form the Parliament of Québec.

The Parliament of Québec assumes all the powers conferred on the Legislature of Québec. (An Act respecting the National Assembly)

GENERAL ELECTION

At the general election held on 26 March 2007, Quebecers elected the 125 Members who will represent them during the 38th Legislature. Of this number, 56 were elected for the first time.

This milestone event in our democracy brings about important changes in the composition of the National Assembly. Of the 123 Members in office before 26 March, 69 were reelected in the general election, 15 did not run again and 39 were defeated.

Following this general election, the membership of the National Assembly now stands as follows:

- Québec Liberal Party: 48
- Action démocratique du Québec: 41
- Parti québécois: 36

THE THREE POWERS OF THE QUÉBEC STATE

LEGISLATIVE POWER	EXECUTIVE POWER	JUDICIAL POWER
Examines, discusses, amends and passes laws.	Determines policies to guide the actions of the State.	Interprets the laws passed by the legislative power.
Supervises the action of the executive power. Discusses matters of public interest.	Administers and controls the State in accordance with the laws passed by the legislative power.	Decides whether a citizen or a group has acted in accordance with the law.
Parliament	**Government**	**Courts**

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

On 21 February 2007, the Executive Council adopted two orders at the recommendation of the Premier: the first ordered the dissolution of the National Assembly and summoned a new Assembly for 1 May 2007; the second requested that the Chief Electoral Officer hold a general election on 26 March 2007. The Premier then went to the office of the Lieutenant-Governor, who signed the royal proclamations giving effect to the orders and thus ending the 37th Legislature.

Once the Assembly has been dissolved, Members cease to be vested with their mandate, but Ministers remain in office so long as their successors have not been appointed. The President and three vice-presidents also continue to hold office until they have been replaced by the new Assembly. As regards parliamentary proceedings, the dissolution causes all current procedural acts and all bills that have not been passed to lapse.

THE ROLES OF A MEMBER: LEGISLATOR, CONTROLLER AND INTERMEDIARY

The primary activity of a Member is his participation in the legislative process. As a legislator, he examines, analyzes and votes on bills at the National Assembly. This role is carried out in several stages, both in the Assembly and in the standing committees.

Furthermore, a Member disposes of several methods to control the actions of the Government. It should be mentioned, among other methods, the possibility of questioning Ministers on topics of current interest during Oral Questions and Answers, as well as the examination of the activities and management of ministries in committee. He plays an active part during public hearings in parliamentary committee with regard to the main societal issues.

He also exercises the role of intermediary between his constituents and the public administration. A Member represents the constituents of his electoral division. He defends the interests of his fellow citizens and puts forward their needs to the Government machinery.

THE MEMBERS OF THE 37TH LEGISLATURE

The by-elections held on 10 April and 14 August 2006

A by-election is held in an electoral division for the purpose of filling a vacancy arising from the resignation or death of a Member or stemming from a judicial ruling. When a seat becomes vacant, a Government order instituting the holding of a by-election must be addressed to the Chief Electoral Officer not later than six months after it becomes vacant.

Following the resignation of three Members in 2006, by-elections were held on 10 April 2006 in the electoral division of Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques and, on 14 August 2006, in the electoral divisions of Pointe-aux-Trembles and Taillon. These by-elections were called in pursuance of two Government orders, the first issued on 6 March 2006 and the second, on 11 July 2006.

On 18 April and 21 August 2006, the Chief Electoral Officer transmitted to the Secretary General of the Assembly the names of the candidates declared elected in these three electoral divisions:

18 April

Mr. Martin Lemay
Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques
PQ

21 August

Mr. André Boisclair
Pointe-aux-Trembles
PQ

21 August

Mrs. Marie Malavoy
Taillon
PQ

On 21 August 2006, Mr. André Boisclair became Leader of the Official Opposition.

Resignations

These three Members resigned from their office in 2006-2007.

They are:

Mrs. Nicole Léger
PQ
Pointe-aux-Trembles
First elected:
on 9 December 1996
Date of resignation:
on 1 June 2006

Mr. Jean-Pierre Charbonneau
PQ
Borduas
First elected:
on 15 November 1976
Date of resignation:
on 15 November 2006

Mrs. Diane Legault
QLP
Chambly
First elected:
on 14 April 2003
Date of resignation:
on 15 November 2006

The distribution of seats according to political party

At its dissolution on 21 February 2007, the National Assembly was composed as follows:

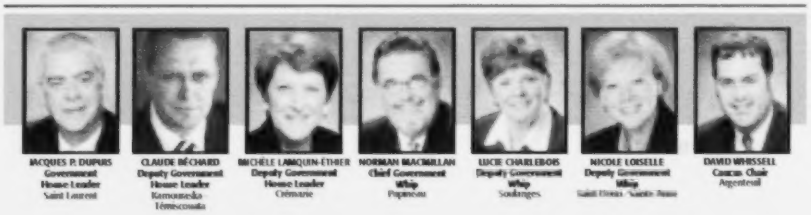
	Number of seats
Québec Liberal Party (QLP)	72
Parti Québécois (PQ)	45
Action démocratique du Québec (ADQ)	5
Independent Member	1
Vacant seats	2

Anniversaries in politics

In 2006-2007, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, President of the National Assembly, Mr. William Cusano, First Vice-president, Mrs. Louise Harel, then Leader of the Official Opposition, as well as Mr. Pierre Paradis, Member, celebrated their 25th anniversary in politics. The most senior Member of the National Assembly and also Vice-President, Mr. François Gendron, for his part celebrated his 30th year in Parliament.

JEAN CHAREST
Premier
Sherbrooke

THE MEMBERS
OF THE 37TH LEGISLATURE



JACQUES P. DUPUIS
Government House Leader
Saint Laurent

CLAUDE BÉCHARD
Deputy Government House Leader
Kamouraska-Témiscouata

MICHÈLE LAMQUIN-ÉTHIER
Deputy Government House Leader
Crémazie

NORMAN MACMILLAN
Chief Government Whip
Papineau

LUCIE CHARLEBOIS
Deputy Government Whip
Soulanges

NICOLE LOISELLE
Deputy Government Whip
Saint-Hyacinthe–Bagot

DAVID WHISSELL
Caucus Chair
Argenteuil

VINCENT AUCLAIR
Vimont

MICHEL AUDET
Laporte

CLAUDE BACHAND
Arthabaska

RAYMOND BACHAND
Drummond

LISE BEAUCHAMP
Bonaventure–Îles-de-la-Madeleine

LAWRENCE S. BERGMAN
D'Arcy McGee

DANIEL BERNARD
Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue

RAYMOND BERNIER
Montmorency

KARL BLACKBURN
Roberval

YVAN BORDELEAU
Acadie

JULIE BOULET
Laviolette

BERNARD BRODEUR
Shefford

JACQUES CHAGNON
Westmount–Saint-Louis

NANCY CHAREST
Matane

ANDRÉ CHENAIL
Huntingdon

ROCH CHOLETTE
Hull

MAURICE CLERMONT
Îles-de-la-Madeleine

RUSSELL COPEMAN
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

PIERRE CORBEIL
Abitibi-Est

PHILIPPE COUILLARD
Mont-Royal

MICHELLE COURCHESNE
Fabre

MARGARET F. DELISLE
Iron Lakes

PIERRE DESCHAMPS
Groulx

MICHEL DESPRÉS
Jean-Lesage

JEAN DUBUC
La Prairie

JEAN-MARC FOURNIER
Châteauguay

ANDRÉ GABIAS
Trois-Rivières

MONIQUE GAGNON-TREMBLAY
Saint-François

FRANCINE GAUDET
Maskinongé

FRANÇOISE GAUTHIER
Jonquière

HENRI-FRANÇOIS GAUTRIN
Verdun

SAM HAMAD
Louis-Hébert

FRANCE HAMEL
La Peltrie

FATIMA HOUDA-PEPIN
La Pinière

YOLANDE JAMES
Bellechasse

MONIQUE JEANNE-VINCENT
Marguerite-Bourgeoys

GEOFFREY KELLEY
Jacques-Cartier

RÉJEAN LAFRENIÈRE
Gatineau

CHARLOTTE L'ÉCUYER
Pontiac

LAURENT LESSARD
Frontenac

YVON MARCOUX
Vaudreuil

PIERRE MARSAN
Robert-Baldwin

ÉRIC R. MERCIER
Charlesbourg

PIERRE MICHEAU
Marguerite-D'Youville

NORBERT MORIN
Montmagny-L'Islet

THOMAS J. MULCAIR
Chomedey

NATHALIE NORMANDEAU
Bonaventure

FRANÇOIS OUIMET
Marguerite

ALAIN PAQUET
Laval-des-Rapides

JEAN-PIERRE PAQUIN
Saint-Jean

PIERRE PARADIS
Brome-Missisquoi

BENOÎT PELLETIER
Chapleau

SARAH PERREAULT
Chauveau

PIERRE REID
Orford

JEAN ROUX
Iberville

JEAN-PIERRE SOUCY
Portneuf

CAROLE THÉBERGE
Lévis

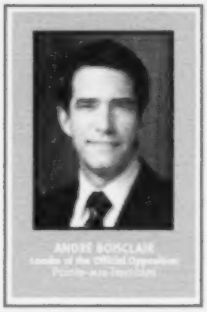
LISE THÉRIAULT
Anjou

TONY TOMASSI
LaFontaine

YVON VALLIÈRES
Richmond

DOMINIQUE VIEN
Bellechasse

AT THE DISSOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON 21 FEBRUARY 2007



ANDRÉ BOISCLAIR
Leader of the Official Opposition
Pointe-aux-Trembles

MICHEL BISSONNET
President
Jeanne-Mance–Viger

WILLIAM CUSANO
First Vice-President
Viau

DIANE LEBLANC
Second Vice-President
Beauharnois

FRANÇOIS GENDRON
Third Vice-President
Abitibi-Ouest

DIANE LEMIEUX
Opposition House Leader
Bourget

STÉPHANE BÉDARD
Deputy Opposition House Leader
Chicoutimi

MICHEL MORIN
Chief Opposition Whip
Nicolet-Yamaska

JACQUES CÔTÉ
Deputy Opposition Whip
Dubuc

AGNÈS MALTAIS
Caucus Chair
Taschereau

MAXIME ARSENEAU
Îles-de-la-Madeleine

DENISE BEAUDOIN
Mirabel

STÉPHANE BERGERON
Verchères

ROSAIRE BERTRAND
Charlevoix

CAMIL BOUCHARD
Vachon

CLAUDE BOUCHER
Iberville

ALEXANDRE BOURDEAU
Berthier

JOCELYNE CABON
Iberbonne

NOËLLA CHAMPAGNE
Champlain

SOLANGE CHAREST
Rimouski

CLAUDE COUSINEAU
Bertrand

SERGE DESJÈRES
Beauharnois

LÉANDRE DION
Saint-Hyacinthe

RITA DIONNE-MARSOLAIS
Rosemont

DANIELLE DOYER
Matapédia

MARJOLAIN DUFOUR
René-Lévesque

NICOLAS GIRARD
Gouin

LOUISE HAREL
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve

NORMAND JUTRAS
Drummond

ELSIE LEFEBVRE
Laurier-Dorion

FRANÇOIS LEGAULT
Rousseau

RICHARD LEGENDRE
Blainville

GUY LELIÈVRE
Gaspé

MARTIN LEMAY
Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques

MICHEL LÉTOURNEAU
Argenteuil

MARIE MALAVOY
Sainte-Hélène

SYLVAIN PAGÉ
Labelle

LUCIE PAPINEAU
Prévost

CLAUDE PINARD
Saint-Maurice

LORRAINE RICHARD
Duplessis

HÉLÈNE ROBERT
Deux-Montagnes

SYLVAIN SIMARD
Richelieu

JEAN-CLAUDE ST-ANDRÉ
L'Assomption

LUC THÉRIAULT
Masson

STÉPHAN TREMBLAY
Lac-Saint-Jean

DANIEL TURP
Mercier

JONATHAN VALOIS
Joliette

CÉCILE VERMETTE
Marie-Victorin

MARIO LAFRENIÈRE
Saint-Jean

JAMMER GRONDIN
Beauce-Nord

SYLVAIN LÉGARÉ
Vanier

MARC PICARD
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière

SYLVIE ROY
Lotbinière

DANIEL BOUCHARD
Bégantic–Compton

THE SEATING PLAN OF THE ASSEMBLY AT ITS DISSOLUTION ON 21 FEBRUARY 2007

Parliamentary duties

President

He is elected among the Members and his duties are threefold: to chair the sittings of the Assembly while ensuring that the Standing Orders are observed and that the rights and privileges of the National Assembly and of its Members are protected; to oversee the services of the Assembly; to represent the Assembly in Québec and abroad, particularly in its relations with other Parliaments.

Vice-presidents

There are three vice-presidents, the first two of which are elected among the Members of the parliamentary group forming the Government and the third, among the Members of the parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition. They assist the President in his duties and enjoy the same prerogatives and the same authority as the latter when they replace him in his parliamentary duties.

Leader

A Member who is responsible for the parliamentary activity of his party.

House Leader and Deputy House Leader

A Member who is responsible for establishing the parliamentary strategies of his group, assisted and replaced in his duties by his deputy.

Whip and Deputy Whip

A Member who is responsible for discipline within his group and who coordinates the activities of the Members in the Assembly, in committee and within delegations, assisted and replaced in his duties by his deputy.

Caucus Chairman

A Member who is responsible for chairing the proceedings of the caucus of his parliamentary group.

○ **Parliamentary groups**

Parliamentary group forming the Government

The group of Members whose party won the majority of seats in a general election. Their leader becomes the Premier, and he chooses, generally among the Members of this group, those who shall become Ministers.

○ **Parliamentary group forming the Official Opposition**

The group of Members whose party won the second largest number of seats in a general election. The leader of this parliamentary group becomes the Leader of the Official Opposition.

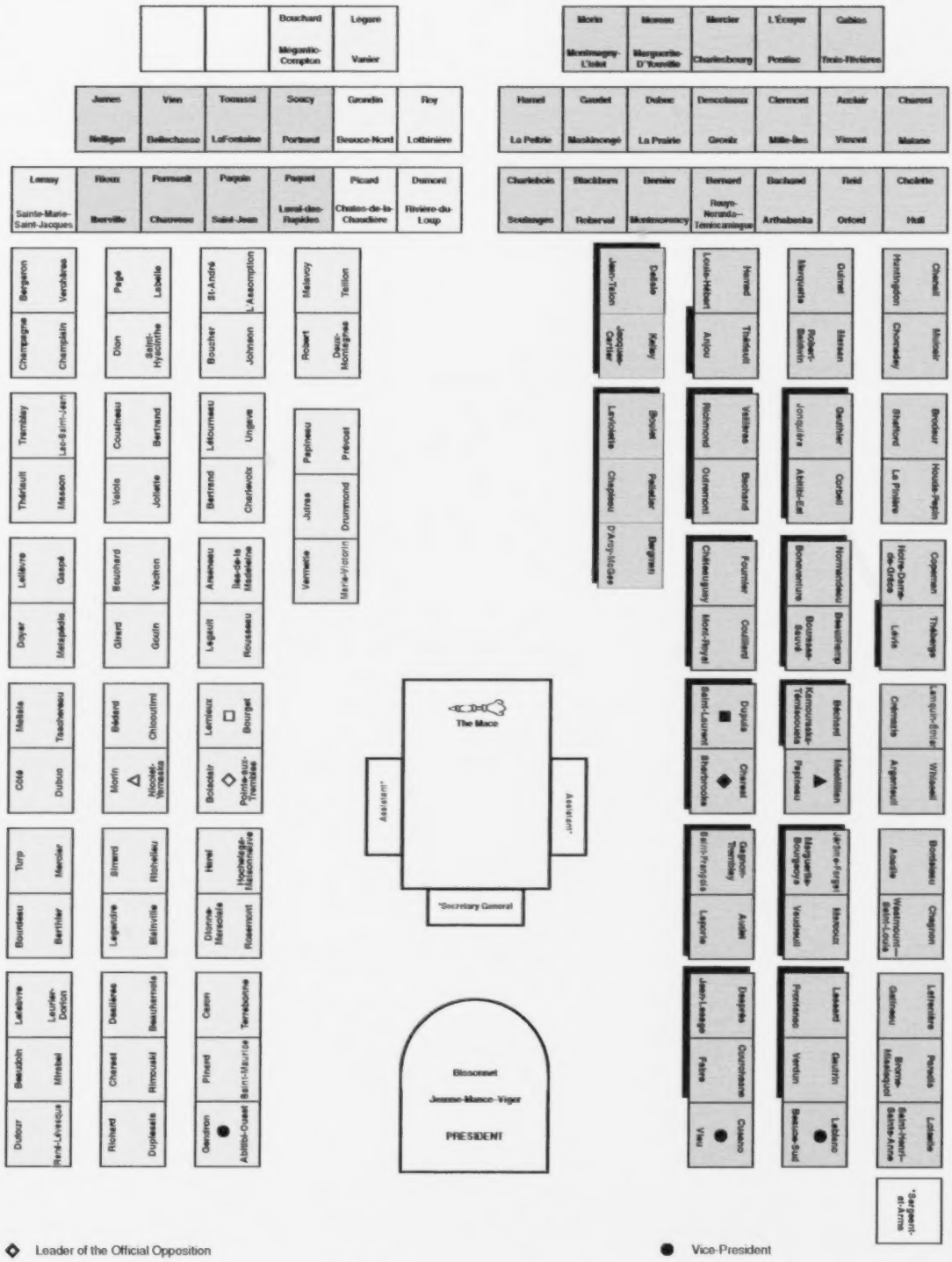
○ **Independent Member**

A Member of Parliament who is not a member of a recognized political party under the Standing Orders of the National Assembly or who, during a term of office, leaves a group without joining another. An independent Member may join a parliamentary group at any time during a legislature.

Parliamentary group: group composed of not fewer than 12 Members elected returned to the Assembly by the same political party or which received not less than 20 % of the popular vote in the most recent general election.

THE SEATING PLAN OF THE ASSEMBLY

AT ITS DISSOLUTION ON 21 FEBRUARY 2007


Bouchard
Mégantic-Compton
Légaré
Vanier
Morin
Montmagny-L'Islet
Mercier
Charlesbourg
L'Écuyer
Pontiac
Gabias
Trois-Rivières
James
Nelligan
Vien
Bellechasse
Tomassi
LaFontaine
Soucy
Portneuf
Grondin
Beauce-Nord
Roy
Lotbinière
Hamel
La Peltrie
Gaudet
Maskinongé
Dubuc
La Prairie
Descoteaux
Groulx
Clermont
Mille-Îles
Auclair
Vimont
Charest
Matane
Lemay
Sainte-Marie-Saint-Jacques
Roux
Iberville
Pernault
Chauveau
Paquin
Saint-Jean
Paquet
Laval-des-Rapides
Picard
Chutes-de-la-Chaudière
Dumont
Rivière-du-Loup
Charbonneau
Soulanges
Blackburn
Roberval
Bernier
Montmorency
Bernard
Rouyn-Noranda—Témiscamingue
Bachand
Arthabaska
Reid
Orford
Chalifoux
Îles-de-la-Madeleine
Gaspé
Vachon
Gouin
Rousseau
Ungava
Jolliet
Bertrand
Charlevoix
Prévost
Drummond
Marie-Victorin
Bergeron
Verchères
Champagne
Champlain
Pagé
Labelle
Dion
Saint-Hyacinthe
St-André
L'Assomption
Boucher
Johnson
Melavoy
Taillon
Robert
Deux-Montagnes
Deltell
Kelley
Jean-Talon
Jean-Lesage
Hamad
Louis-Hébert
Anjou
Thériault
Dufresne
Richmond
Vaillancourt
Richard-Bolduc
Duplessis
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Bonaventure
Beauharnois
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Châteauguay
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Asselin
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Jérôme-Forget
Marsolais
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Hyde-Papin
La Pinière
Copeman
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
Lévis
Thériault
Lamquin-Éthier
Crémazie
Arseneau
Whissell
Boisclair
Anacite
Chagnon
Westmount—Saint-Louis
Lefebvre
Gatineau
Pelletier
Bromont-Mississiquoi
Labrie
Saint-Hyacinthe-Sainte-Anne
Leblanc
Beauce-Sud
Cloutier
Lac-Saint-Jean
Masson
Bélanger
Mégantic-L'Érable
Lelièvre
Gaspé
Arseneau
Îles-de-la-Madeleine
Legault
Rousseau
Bouchard
Vachon
Gérard
Gouin
Bédard
Chicoutimi
Morin
Nicolet-Yamaska
Lemieux
Bourget
Bolduc
Pointe-aux-Trembles
Roy
Lotbinière
Simard
Richelieu
Hétu
Hochelaga-Maisonneuve
Legendre
Blainville
Dionne-Marcoux
Rosemont
Caron
Terrebonne
Pinard
Saint-Maurice
Gendron
Abitibi-Ouest
Deschênes
Beauharnois
Charest
Rimouski
Richard
Duplessis
Lelièvre
Laurier-Dorion
Beaudoin
Mirabel
Dufour
René-Lévesque
Turp
Mercier
Boudreau
Berthier
Mallais
Taschereau
Côté
Dubuc
Bergeron
Verchères
Champagne
Champlain
Thériault
Masson
Lelièvre
Gaspé
Dupuis
Saint-Laurent
Charest
Sherbrooke
Bélanger
Mégantic-L'Érable
Kelley
Jean-Talon
Deltell
Jean-Lesage
Fabre
Charbonneau
Chagnon
Westmount—Saint-Louis
Anacite
Boisclair
Cusano
Viau
Leblanc
Beauce-Sud
Gautrin
Verdun
Prentano
Lessard
Jérôme-Forget
Marguerite-Bourgeoys
Marsolais
Veuillet
Garon-Thériault
Saint-François
Asselin
Lapointe
Hamad
Louis-Hébert
Anjou
Thériault
Dufresne
Richmond
Vaillancourt
Richard-Bolduc
Duplessis
Lafontaine
Bonaventure
Beauharnois
Soulanges
Châteauguay
Fournier
Mont-Royal
Couillard
Normandeau
Bourassa-Sauvé
Beauchamp
Bélanger
Mégantic-L'Érable
Kelley
Jean-Talon
Deltell
Jean-Lesage
Fabre
Charbonneau
Cusano
Viau
Leblanc
Beauce-Sud
Gautrin
Verdun
Prentano
Lessard
Jérôme-Forget
Marguerite-Bourgeoys
Marsolais
Veuillet
Garon-Thériault
Saint-François
Asselin
Lapointe
Hamad
Louis-Hébert
Anjou
Thériault
Dufresne
Richmond
Vaillancourt
Richard-Bolduc
Duplessis
Lafontaine
Bonaventure
Beauharnois
Soulanges
Châteauguay
Fournier
Mont-Royal
Couillard
Normandeau
Bourassa-Sauvé
Beauchamp
Dutil
Huntingdon
Chomedey
Mercier
Brodeur
Shefford
Hyde-Papin
La Pinière
Copeman
Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
Lévis
Thériault
Lamquin-Éthier
Crémazie
Arseneau
Whissell
Boisclair
Anacite
Chagnon
Westmount—Saint-Louis
Lefebvre
Gatineau
Pelletier
Bromont-Mississiquoi
Labrie
Saint-Hyacinthe-Sainte-Anne
Leblanc
Beauce-Sud
Cloutier
Lac-Saint-Jean
Masson

The National Assembly and PARLIAMENTARY WORK

During their term of office, Members are called upon to discuss a multitude of issues concerning the public affairs of Québec. Several means are at their disposal in order to examine a question concerning a given societal issue and to fully take part in the parliamentary proceedings. The debates in the National Assembly and in the committees are conducted in accordance with a set of rules based on the British parliamentary system that guarantee freedom of speech to Members and their legal authority over the business of the State.

THE SESSIONAL PERIODS

The Standing Orders of the National Assembly establish a work calendar that is divided into two periods: from the second Tuesday in March until 23 June at the latest, and from the third Tuesday in October until 21 December at the latest. The Standing Orders also provide for «intensive» periods of work, beginning on 25 May and on 25 November, during which the Members also sit on Friday and the sitting hours are extended.

For their part, the standing committee sittings may take place all year long. However, none of these sittings may be held when the Routine Proceedings are underway in the National Assembly Chamber.

The schedule of Assembly sittings

Schedule	Ordinary hours of meeting	Extended hours of meeting 25 May to 23 June / 25 Nov. to 21 Dec.
Monday	*	*
Tuesday Wenesday Thursday	10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Friday		

* *The Assembly sits on Monday on motion by the Government House Leader.*

Outside of the periods provided for in the Standing Orders, the Assembly, at the request of the Premier, may hold extraordinary sittings. This request is addressed to the President or, in his absence, to the Secretary General.

Extraordinary sitting of 20 February 2007

At the request of the Premier, Mr. Jean Charest, the National Assembly was summoned to meet as a matter of urgency in an extraordinary sitting, on 20 February 2007, in order to allow the Minister of Finance to deliver the Budget Speech and also to allow the Official Opposition critic and an independent Member to comment thereon.

THE ASSESSMENT OF WORK AT THE ASSEMBLY

During 2006-2007, 64 sittings were held in the Assembly and 410 in committee. The table below provides a breakdown thereof:

	ASSEMBLY		COMMITTEES	
	Sittings	Hours	Sittings	Hours
April	9	32:17	42	149:30
May	15	63:09	90	275:25
June	11	74:53	55	165:48
July	0	0:00	0	0:00
August	0	0:00	6	9:21
September	0	0:00	41	135:38
October	6	31:30	21	54:24
November	14	73:35	71	172:56
December	8	36:33	54	159:07
January	0	0:00	14	58:01
February	1*	7:11	16	58:15
March	0	0:00	0	0:00
TOTAL	64	319:08	410	1238:25

* Extraordinary sitting on Tuesday, 20 February 2007.

The conduct of a sitting in the National Assembly

A sitting of the Assembly is divided into two distinct periods: the Routine Proceedings and the Orders of the Day.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS	ORDERS OF THE DAY
The Routine Proceedings comprise nine items of business set aside for information given by the Government to the National Assembly. One of the more interesting items is certainly Oral Questions and Answers, which takes place on every sitting day. The order in which the items of business under Routine Proceedings are taken is as follows: 1. Statements by Ministers 2. Introduction of bills 3. Tablings 4. Complaints of Breach of Privilege or Contempt and Personal Explanations 5. Oral Questions and Answers 6. Deferred Divisions 7. Motions Without Notice 8. Notices of Proceedings in Committees 9. Information on the Proceedings of the Assembly	The Orders of the Day are devoted mainly to debates on bills at either of the stages of their consideration. It is also at this time that the National Assembly takes into consideration all other substantive motions for debate. The Orders of the Day are composed of five items of business that must be taken according to a predetermined order of priority: 1. Business Having Precedence 2. Urgent Debates 3. Debates on Reports from Committees 4. Other Business Standing on the Order Paper and Notices 5. Business Standing in the Name of Members in Opposition

A FEW NUMBERS IN 2006-2007

- 7 statements by ministers were made;
- 79 bills were introduced until the dissolution of the House, on 21 February 2007;
- 792 documents were tabled in the Assembly, including decisions from the Office of the Assembly, annual reports and committee reports as well as petitions.

The Routine Proceedings

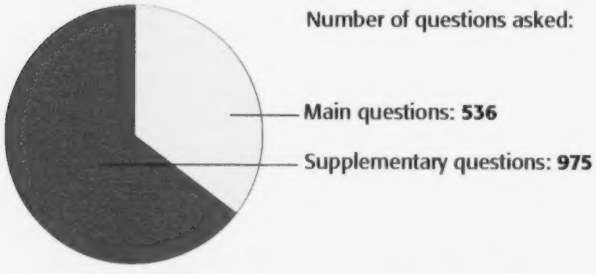
Statements by Ministers - A Minister may make a statement to the Assembly on any subject he deems to be relevant, such as the announcement of a government policy or the Government's reaction to a given event.

Introduction of Bills - It is during Routine Proceedings that a bill may be introduced. Members do not discuss the content of the bill at this point but simply allow the text thereof to be submitted for consideration during the subsequent stages of the legislative process.

Oral Questions and Answers

This item of business is without a doubt the most familiar to citizens. During this 45-minute period, Members may question Ministers on matters of public interest, stemming from current events or urgent matters, within their competence or that of the Government.

Forty-eight hours were devoted to Oral Questions and Answers.



GLOSSARY

Motion

Procedural act by which a Member places some matter before the Assembly for its decision. He may thus ask the Assembly to carry out an action, order that an action be carried out or express an opinion on a given subject.

In 2006-2007, 198 motions without notice were carried. They concerned subjects such as:

- the observance of the Kyoto Protocol by the Federal Government;
- the 50th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations' Blue Helmets;
- the 45th anniversary of the election of the first woman at the Québec National Assembly , Mrs. Marie-Claire Kirkland;
- the 10th anniversary of the death of former Premier of Québec, Mr. Robert Bourassa.

The Orders of the Day

Business Having Precedence - As the name indicates, these items of business have precedence over all other matters, owing to their importance or urgency. The Opening Speech of the Session, delivered by the Premier, ranks first among the items of business having precedence, as well as the speeches by the Leaders of the parliamentary groups or their representatives, within the framework of the ensuing debate thereon. Among other business having precedence, the Budget Speech and want of confidence motions should also be mentioned.

Urgent Debates - Any Member may request the holding of an urgent debate. The President authorizes the holding of such a debate if he deems that the request concerns a specific and important matter involving the responsibility of the Assembly and which cannot otherwise be discussed.

Debates on Reports from Committees - The reports from committees containing recommendations are placed on the *Order Paper* immediately after they have been tabled in the Assembly and must be taken into consideration within 15 days following this tabling.

Other Business Standing on the *Order Paper and Notices* - It is during this period that the Assembly engages in the various stages of the consideration of a bill, more particularly the passage in principle, the clause-by-clause consideration in committee of the whole and the passage of the bill.

Only a Minister may introduce a bill having a financial impact. However, barring this exception, any Member has the right to introduce a bill at the National Assembly, and he may thereupon entrust its drafting to the legal and legislative services of the Assembly.

During the last year, the Assembly passed 72 bills, more specifically:

- 58 introduced by Ministers, 76 % of which were adopted unanimously;
- One introduced by a Member and which was adopted unanimously;
- 13 private bills, all of which were adopted unanimously.

On average, 94 days elapsed between the introduction of these bills and their passage.

THE STANDING COMMITTEES

An important part of parliamentary work is not carried out in the Assembly itself, but in the committees, where Members exercise their roles as legislators and controllers of the Government's actions. The committees are composed of a dozen Members and are responsible for the examination of any matter within their competence. It is in committee that the population may be heard during public consultations on bills or on important societal issues. It is also in committee that the Members give detailed consideration to bills, closely examine the activities of the ministries and governmental agencies, study the budgetary estimates of the Government and may also choose, on their own initiative, to examine any other matter within their field of jurisdiction.

There are eleven standing parliamentary committees, nine of which are sector-based. Six of the sector-based committees are chaired by Members from the group forming the Government and three, by Members of the Official Opposition. The chairmanship of the Committee on Public Administration is set aside for a Member of the Official Opposition, and the President of the National Assembly chairs the Committee on the National Assembly.

DID YOU KNOW?

During the 37th Legislature, 31 committee reports and 4 discussion papers were published by the standing committees, as opposed to 30 during the 36th Legislature and 18 during the 35th Legislature. This data indicates the importance that parliamentarians attach to committee proceedings.

Schedule of standing committees

Schedule	Ordinary hours of meeting	Extended hours of meeting 25 May to 23 June / 25 Nov. to 21 Dec.
Monday	2 p.m. to 6 p.m.	10 a.m.-1p.m./3-6 p.m./8 p.m.-12 a.m.
Tuesday **Wednesday** **Thursday**	9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. 2-6 p.m.	10 a.m.-1 p.m. 3-6 p.m. 8 p.m.-12 a.m.
Friday	9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.	10 a.m.-1p.m./3-6 p.m./8 p.m.-12 a.m.

GLOSSARY

Committee chairman

A Member of one of the parliamentary groups, elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term, he organizes and chairs the proceedings of his committee. The chairman of the committee takes part in the debates and has the right to vote.

Committee vice-chairman

A Member of a parliamentary group other than that of the chairman, elected by the members of the committee for a two-year term, he assists the chairman in his duties and replaces him when necessary.

The members of each committee

Before presenting an overview of the work carried out in 2006-2007, the following provides a brief description of the terms of reference and the members of each committee at the end of the 37th Legislature:

COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Standing Orders of the National Assembly and Rules for the Conduct of Proceedings; coordination of the proceedings of the other committees

Ex-officio members:

The President of the Assembly
The Vice-presidents of the Assembly
The House leaders and whips of the parliamentary groups
The chairmen of the committees

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Accountability and examination of financial commitments

Members:

The chair — Rita Dionne-Marsolais (Rosemont) PQ
The vice-chair — Sarah Perreault (Chauveau) QLP

QLP
Yvan Bordeleau (Acadie)
Francine Gaudet (Maskinongé)
Alain Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides)
Jean-Pierre Paquin (Saint-Jean)
Jean Rioux (Iberville)

PQ
Martin Lemay
(Sainte-Marie—Saint-Jacques)
Agnès Maltais (Taschereau)
Cécile Vermette (Marie-Victorin)

COMMITTEE ON INSTITUTIONS

Executive Council, justice, public security,
intergovernmental relations, the Constitution

Members:

The chair — Sylvain Simard (Richelieu) PQ
The vice-chair — Pierre Descoteaux (Groulx) QLP

QLP
Raymond Bernier (Montmorency)
Karl Blackburn (Roberval)
Nancy Charest (Matane)
Roch Cholette (Hull)
André Gabias (Trois-Rivières)
Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)

PQ
Jacques Côté (Dubuc)
Daniel Turp (Mercier)
Jonathan Valois (Joliette)

ADQ
Mario Dumont (Rivière-du-Loup)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC FINANCE

Finance, the budget, the public accounts, the public administration,
the public service, supply and services

Members:

The chair — Sam Hamad (Louis-Hébert) QLP
The vice-chair — Rosaire Bertrand (Charlevoix) PQ

QLP
Raymond Bernier (Montmorency)
Nancy Charest (Matane)
André Gabias (Trois-Rivières)
Pierre Moreau (Marguerite-D'Youville)
Alain Paquet (Laval-des-Rapides)
Tony Tomassi (LaFontaine)

PQ
Denise Beaudoin (Mirabel)
François Legault (Rousseau)
Guy Lelièvre (Gaspé)

ADQ
Marc Picard
(Chutes-de-la-Chaudière)

The importance of parliamentary control

Parliamentary control activities constitute close to 54 % of the work carried out in the standing committees, as the following table indicates:

Parliamentary control		
Government estimates of expenditure	183:40	14.8 %
Interpellations	15:41	1.3 %
Other orders of the Assembly	210:49	17 %
Delegated legislation	0:00	0 %
Surveillance of agencies	11:36	0.9 %
Examination of financial commitments	13:58	1.1 %
Accountability	48:02	3.9 %
Other orders under the Standing Orders	103:17	8.3 %
Orders of initiative	78:13	6.3 %
Legislative process		
Consideration of public bills	542:38	43.8 %
Consideration of private bills	9:33	0.8 %
General organization and election of the chairmen and vice-chairmen	19:46	1.6 %
Discussion on the parliamentary reform	1:12	0.1 %
TOTAL	1238:25	100 %

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Family, health, social and community services, status of women, income security

Members:

The chair — Russell Copeman (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce) QLP
The vice-chair — Camil Bouchard (Vachon) PQ

QLP
Vincent Auclair (Vimont)
Daniel Bernard (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue)
Yolande James (Nelligan)
Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)
Jean-Pierre Paquin (Saint-Jean)
Pierre Reid (Orford)

PQ
Noëlla Champagne (Champlain)
Solange Charest (Rimouski)
Jean-Claude St-André (L'Assomption)

ADQ
Sylvie Roy (Lotbinière)

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND THE ECONOMY

Industry, trade, tourism, labour, science and technology, energy and resources, manpower

Members:

The chair — Normand Jutras (Drummond) PQ
The vice-chair — Claude Bachand (Arthabaska) QLP

QLP
Karl Blackburn (Roberval)
Pierre Descoteaux (Groulx)
France Hamel (La Peltrie)
Éric R. Mercier (Charlesbourg)
Norbert Morin (Montmagny-L'Islet)
Jean Rioux (Iberville)

PQ
Danielle Doyer (Matapédia)
Marjolain Dufour (René-Lévesque)
Lorraine Richard (Duplessis)

ADQ
Sylvain Légaré (Vanier)

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

Agriculture, fisheries, food

Members:

The chair — Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière) QLP
The vice-chair — Louise Harel (Hochelaga–Maisonneuve) PQ

QLP
Claude Bachand (Arthabaska)
Daniel Bernard (Rouyn-Noranda–Témiscamingue)
André Chenail (Huntingdon)
Jean-Pierre Soucy (Portneuf)
Dominique Vien (Bellechasse)

PQ
Léandre Dion (Saint-Hyacinthe)
Michel Morin (Nicolet-Yamaska)
Hélène Robert (Deux-Montagnes)

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Local communities, municipal planning, housing, recreation

Members:

The chair	François Ouimet (Marquette) QLP
The vice-chair	Richard Legendre (Blainville) PQ

QLP
Vincent Auclair (Vimont)
Yvan Bordeleau (Acadie)
Jean Dubuc (La Prairie)
France Hamel (La Peltrie)
Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière)
Tony Tomassi (LaFontaine)

PQ
Noëlla Champagne (Champlain)
Martin Lemay (Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques)
Sylvain Pagé (Labelle)

Indépendant
Daniel Bouchard (Mégantic-Compton)

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Education, vocational training, consumer protection

Members:

The chair	Jacques Chagnon (Westmount–Saint-Louis) QLP
The vice-chair	Maxime Arseneau (Îles-de-la-Madeleine) PQ

QLP
Vincent Auclair (Vimont)
Yvan Bordeleau (Acadie)
Francine Gaudet (Maskinongé)
Éric R. Mercier (Charlesbourg)
Sarah Perreault (Chauveau)

PQ
Camil Bouchard (Vachon)
Claude Cousineau (Bertrand)
Marie Malavoy (Taillon)

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE

Culture, communications, cultural communities, immigration, relations with the citizens

Members:

The chair	Bernard Brodeur (Shefford) QLP
The vice-chair	Daniel Turp (Mercier) PQ

QLP
Yolande James (Nelligan)
Pierre Marsan (Robert-Baldwin)
Éric R. Mercier (Charlesbourg)
Pierre Moreau (Marguerite-D'Youville)
Dominique Vien (Bellechasse)

PQ
Jocelyne Caron (Terrebonne)
Léandre Dion (Saint-Hyacinthe)
Lucie Papineau (Prévost)

GLOSSARY

Temporary chairman

A Member appointed by the President of the Assembly to preside over the debates of a committee, at the request of a committee chairman or when the Assembly so directs in an order of reference. The Committee on the National Assembly approves a list of Members who may act in such capacity. The list of temporary chairmen was as follows as at 21 February 2007:

QLP

Lucie Charlebois (Soulanges)
Maurice Clermont (Mille-Îles)
Jean Dubuc (La Prairie)
France Hamel (La Peltrie)
Yolande James (Nelligan)
Michèle Lamquin-Éthier (Crémazie)
Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)
Éric R. Mercier (Charlesbourg)
Jean-Pierre Paquin (Saint-Jean)
Pierre Paradis (Brome-Missisquoi)
Pierre Reid (Orford)

PQ

Claude Boucher (Johnson)
Solange Charest (Rimouski)
Serge Deslières (Beauharnois)
Danielle Doyer (Matapédia)
Hélène Robert (Deux-Montagnes)
Cécile Vermette (Marie-Victorin)

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Transportation, public works, the environment, wildlife

Members:

The chair — **Claude Pinard (Saint-Maurice) PQ**
The vice-chair — **Tony Tomassi (LaFontaine) QLP**

QLP
Maurice Clermont (Mille-Îles)
Jean Dubuc (La Prairie)
Réjean Lafrenière (Gatineau)
Charlotte L'Écuyer (Pontiac)
Norbert Morin (Montmagny-L'Islet)
Jean-Pierre Soucy (Portneuf)

PQ
Stéphane Bergeron (Verchères)
Serge Deslières (Beauharnois)
Luc Thériault (Masson)

ADQ
Janvier Grondin (Beauce-Nord)

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTION ACT

Exceptionally, the Assembly may appoint a Select Committee, which was the case in June 2005, in order to examine the draft bill replacing the Election Act. This is only the fourth Select Committee to be created since the parliamentary reform of 1984. The Committee tabled its report in June 2006.

Members:

The chair — **François Ouimet (Marquette) QLP**
The vice-chair — **Sylvain Simard (Richelieu) PQ**

QLP
André Gabias (Trois-Rivières)
Fatima Houda-Pepin (La Pinière)
Benoît Pelletier (Chapleau)
Sarah Perreault (Chauveau)

PQ
Lorraine Richard (Duplessis)
Luc Thériault (Masson)

ADQ
Marc Picard (Chutes-de-la-Chaudière)

Key events: three study missions

In 2006-2007, three committees carried out study missions outside of the National Assembly.

Order of initiative on the impact of climate warming in Northern Québec

Within the framework of its order of initiative on the impact of climate warming in Northern Québec, the Committee on Transportation and the Environment had the opportunity to hear the viewpoints of the main researchers and Québec ministries concerned by this issue during special consultations. Following these hearings, six Members, who formed a subcommittee for the occasion, travelled to Nunavik from 19 to 22 September 2006. The Committee report contains 18 recommendations

regarding the implementation of adjustment measures to cope with the impact of climate warming and other environmental issues, such as the clean up of abandoned mine sites.

Order of initiative on the school success of Natives

The parliamentarians of the Committee on Education took this initiative after having examined the statistics on school dropouts which reveal that approximately 25 % of young Natives obtain their high school diploma after seven years of school as opposed to approximately 75 % for Québec overall. Within the framework of this mandate, the Committee members travelled to Northern Québec and to the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region, and then to Wendake. Six of the communities belonging to one or the other of the 11 Native Nations were visited. In each of the communities, the parliamentarians visited the schools, met with the directors, professors and students, school board representatives and community leaders. The report contains 18 recommendations that were adopted unanimously by the 10 committee members.

Visit to the Péribonka River hydroelectric development

The Committee on Labour and the Economy travelled to the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region to visit the Péribonka River hydroelectric development worksite. The purpose of the visit was to better inform the members on the current and future hydroelectric development projects and to prepare the examination of Hydro-Québec's 2006-2010 strategic plan.

The mandates of the standing committees

The sector-based standing committees may carry out three types of mandates: orders of initiative, orders of reference and statutory orders. The list of mandates carried out by the standing committees in 2006-2007 can be found in appendix.

1. Orders of initiative

In the course of 2006-2007, the committee members took the initiative to examine issues affecting various sectors of community life. The organization of these mandates requires the holding of several meetings during which members prepare consultation or information papers, hear experts, plan public hearings and draft final reports containing recommendations addressed to the Government.

In addition to the impact of climate warming in Northern Québec, the school success of Natives and the Péribonka River hydroelectric development, the main topics examined by the Members are the protection of investors in the mutual funds sector, the follow-up to the mandate on food safety, the religious heritage, road safety, the role of the State as

GLOSSARY

Orders of initiative

On their own initiative, the committee members examine draft regulations and regulations, the orientation, activities and management of public agencies and any other matter of public interest.

regards responsible management of gambling and the Evaluation Report of the Bureau d'évaluation médicale.

Standing committees also took the initiative to examine the orientation, activities and management of the following public agencies: the Société d'habitation du Québec, the Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial, the Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail, the Commission des lésions professionnelles and the Institut national de santé publique.

List of papers published by the standing committees

- The 16th, 17th and 18th reports on the accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public agencies
- The interim report on the protection of investors in Québec
- The report on the hearings with the heads of university-level institutions
- The report on the school success of Natives
- The report on the examination of the Evaluation Report of the Bureau d'évaluation médicale
- The report on climate warming and other environmental issues in Nunavik
- The report on the hearing with the Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial
- The report on road safety in Québec
- The report on the religious heritage of Québec
- The report of the Select Committee on the Election Act

2. Orders of reference

Clause-by-clause consideration of bills

The standing committees gave consideration to 66 bills of which a complete list can be found in appendix. It is interesting to note that, regarding the bills as a whole, 2961 sections were examined and 845 amendments were adopted out of the 1053 amendments introduced.

General and special consultations

In 2006-2007, 447 groups and individuals came before the committees to give their opinion on the various matters on which consultations were held and 480 briefs were submitted to the committees. The committees also received over 4600 opinions submitted during four on-line consultations. These consultations enable the parliamentarians to properly assess the issues arising from a matter under consideration and to make observations, conclusions and recommendations.

The following are some of the 21 subjects on which public consultations were held: the draft bill to replace the Election Act, the consumer protection bill, the consultation paper on access to health services , the supplemental pension plans bill, the bill respecting access to documents of public bodies and on the protection of personal information, the consultation paper on racism and discrimination, the bill respecting the Québec energy strategy, the bill respecting opening hours of commercial establishments, Hydro-Québec's 2006-2010 strategic plan, the policy statement on the governance of Crown corporations, the bill respecting Mont-Orford National Park, the bill respecting off-highway vehicles, the proposals made by the Société de l'assurance automobile (SAAQ) to increase contributions to the automobile insurance plan.

Consideration of the estimates of expenditure 2006-2007

For a three-week period, during the months of April and May 2006, the committees considered the estimates of expenditure of the Government, as stipulated in Standing Order 282. Upon the conclusion of their mandate, the committees had devoted close to 184 hours to the examination and adoption of the estimates of expenditure granted to the ministries and agencies, totalling over 58 billion dollars.

3. Statutory orders and orders in compliance with the Standing Orders

Statutory orders stem from an act or a regulation arising therefrom, or they may originate from a Standing Order of the National Assembly. As an example, the Committee on Social Affairs and the Committee on Education must periodically hear the 17 heads of the health and social services agencies and the presidents of the 18 universities. To carry out these mandates, the two Committees developed analytical grids comprising several indicators enabling them to examine the performance of these bodies and the evolution of the indicators over a period of time.

GLOSSARY

Orders of reference

At the request of the Assembly, the committees examine bills, the estimates of expenditure, and any other matter that may be referred to them.

GLOSSARY

General consultation

A general consultation is open to the population at large. Prior to its holding, a public notice must be published in selected newspapers, in the *Québec Official Gazette* and on the Internet site of the Assembly inviting any individuals and organizations interested in the matter under consideration to submit a brief to the committee. Public hearings are then held by the committee in order to discuss the submissions received.

Special consultations

Special consultations are limited to individuals and organizations chosen by the Committee or by the Assembly owing to their knowledge or expertise regarding the matter under consideration.

Research Division of the Library

In carrying out their orders of initiative and of parliamentary control, and in the case of certain orders by the Assembly, the standing committees can rely on the support of the Library's Research Division.

This multidisciplinary team composed of 14 professionals from diverse educational backgrounds (history, political science, economy, law, anthropology, sociology, administration, accounting, international relations) produces studies and analyses to meet the special requests of parliamentarians and assists the various committees in drafting consultation papers and reports.

During 2006-2007, the Research Division prepared 159 analysis and information documents and took part in the research and drafting of all papers published by the standing committees.

INTERPELLATIONS

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, every Member sitting in opposition may interpellate a minister on a matter of general interest for which he is officially responsible. The interpellation is held at a meeting of the appropriate standing committee, on Friday morning, from 10.00 o'clock a.m. to 12.00 o'clock noon. One interpellation may be held each week during the periods in which the Assembly ordinarily meets (excepting during intensive session, when none may be held).

The Government's ministers were interpellated in committee on the following matters during 2006-2007:

- the state of the health and social services network;
- the future of education in Québec;
- Québec's energy policy;
- The economic future of the resource regions;
- the economic development strategy of the Government of Québec;
- the transparency of public finance;
- the state of justice in Québec;
- the constitutional position of the Liberal Government.

4. The Committee on Public Administration

During the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the Committee on Public Administration tabled in the National Assembly four reports containing its observations and its recommendations. They are the report on the hearing of the Québec Auditor General on his annual management report 2005-2006 and the 16th, 17th and 18th reports on the accountability of deputy ministers and of chief executive officers of public agencies.

Pursuant to the Standing Orders of the National Assembly, the Committee must also examine all financial commitments equal to or exceeding $25,000. The purpose of this mandate is to ensure continuous parliamentary surveillance of the use of the estimates of expenditure granted to the ministries and to public agencies. During the last fiscal year, the Committee tabled in the National Assembly two reports on the examination of over 15,000 financial commitments.

Facilitating citizen participation

The modernization of proceedings within the standing committees continued in 2006-2007, in close collaboration with several Assembly services, which contributed to bringing elected officials and citizens closer together and to facilitating the work of parliamentarians. In addition to having held four on-line consultations, the committees provided access to all information relating to their proceedings by web broadcasting all public meetings, by providing on-line access to documentation on each committee's Web page, and by ensuring fast access to the transcription of all debates on the Internet site.

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC
A place for every citizen

INAUGURATION OF THE EXHIBITION *LE QUÉBEC, SES DÉPUTÉS, SES RÉGIONS*

Denis Labine©Le Québec en images, CCOMD

BAnQ, cote : P030-01b, P33

Jean Bédard/Sauvagiles

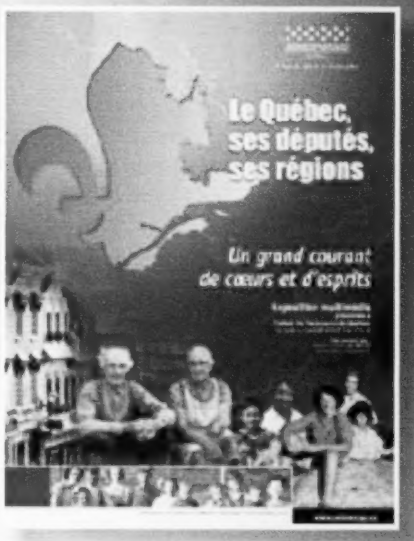
RENOVATION OF THE CENTRAL TOWER OF THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING

Two activities in pictures

www.assnat.qc.ca

LE QUÉBEC, SES DÉPUTÉS, SES RÉGIONS

A new interactive multimedia exhibition at the Parliament Building



Since 7 December 2006, the main hall of the Parliament Building is home to the exhibition entitled *Le Québec, ses députés, ses régions*, which is primarily constituted of interactive stations containing a wealth of multimedia information. Its slogan, «a vast gathering of hearts and spirits», accurately describes the idea behind this achievement. Hence, in the image of the St. Lawrence River, which, all along its route, rises with the water of its tributaries, the nation's dynamic forces converge towards the National-Capital through the elected officials from each of the regions and who are the ambassadors of the values, ideals and dreams of the citizens they represent.

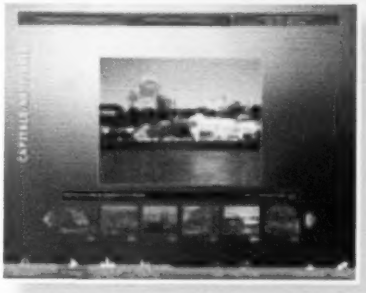
An exhibition worthy of pride

In practical terms, the exhibition is composed of 16 stations, each comprising an array of archival and current photographs associated to a particular region and a computer touchscreen containing interactive content.

Focussing primarily on the role of Members, this multimedia presentation includes:

- A video message of welcome from the President of the National Assembly;
- videoclips featuring each Member expressing his pride in representing his region, describing the wealth thereof as well as how he views his role as parliamentarian;
- information on the roles and duties of the Members as well as the mission and the organization and proceedings of the Québec National Assembly;
- the list of Members elected since 1867 (year in which the Canadian Confederation and the Province of Québec were created) and their biographical notices;
- short illustrated texts and over 1000 photographs explaining and highlighting the major events that marked the history of the various regions, their economic and social diversity, their cultural vitality and the beauty of their landscapes.

This exhibition falls within the National Assembly's wish to create communication tools that make known the institution's mission as well as the role and work of the Members. Our institution also wishes to provide new activities to the close to 100,000 persons who visit the Parliament Building each year.

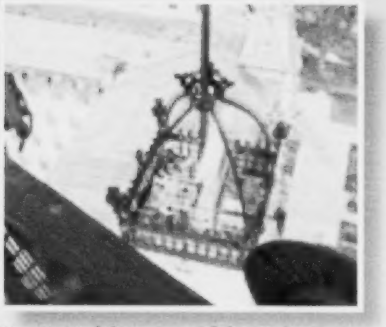


* The exhibition will be updated following the election of the new Members of the 38th Legislature.

THE CENTRAL TOWER OF THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING RENOVATED

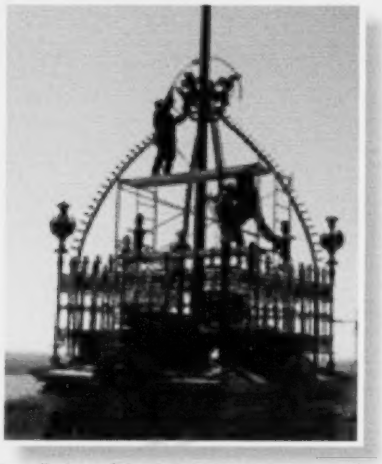
Jean-François Cossette

On 5 June 2006, the central tower of the Parliament was flanked by elevating work platforms, anti-dust tarpaulins and scaffolding in preparation for its restoration.



Jean-François Cossette

Top view of the crown of the Parliament Building as it was fitted back into place, on 20 April 2006.



Jean-François Cossette

Installation of the lighting equipment on the circular ridge of the crown of the Parliament Building, in April 2006.

A symbol of democracy as well as of the national capital, the central tower of the Parliament Building has become an integral part of the urban heritage of Parliament Hill. The construction of the tower, which was designed by architect Eugène-Étienne Taché, was completed in 1886, but it was only eight years later that the gigantic cast iron and steel crown was placed atop its structure.

Large-scale work

Ever-mindful of conserving its architectural heritage, the National Assembly, in 2005-2006, undertook major restoration work on the façade of the Parliament Building.

The first part of the work concerned the central tower crown which, during winter 2005, underwent its first restoration work in 110 years. The renovation was necessary to preserve this exclusive and significant work of art.

The second part of the work focussed on the façade masonry. During this stage of the restoration, a complex and technical work site was set up. Stones and embellishments were worn, crumbling or had simply vanished in time, which led to unwanted water infiltration.

During this work, 12 of the 26 bronze monuments erected on the façade of the Parliament Building were also restored.

Workers, stonemasons, restorers, engineers, architects and artists contributed to the restoration of the tower, its embellishments and its crown, which on several occasions gave rise to spectacular manoeuvres. The work was carried out within the schedule and under the projected costs.

A few words about the crown

Extending from the corners of the crown are four small arches that rise up and fold over to form a ring around the mast of the flag. On the ring adorned with four fleurs de lys are four lights that, when lit, indicate that the National Assembly is sitting.

On the roof is a 1500-pound bell that serves as the chime for the clock of the Parliament. In 2008, the clock will celebrate its 120 years, and has no sign of wear, according to the master clockmaker, who four times a month rewinds its mechanism. To access the clock, he must climb a cast-iron spiral staircase consisting of 165 steps.

DID YOU KNOW?

In comparison with other famous towers, our tower rises to a height of 5[illegible] metres, while the Ottawa Parliament's Peace Tower reaches 92.2 metres and Big Ben in London measures 96.3 metres high.

The National Assembly and THE CITIZENS

In addition to providing the citizens with the opportunity to follow the parliamentary proceedings and on occasion to take part in them, the Assembly disposes of a vast array of communications methods and tools for the purpose of bringing the citizens and their elected representatives closer together. In this regard, it is one of the most pioneering parliamentary assemblies in the world.

THE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Very few Parliaments in the world offer educational activities to their population that are as rewarding as those of the National Assembly of Québec. To stimulate the interest of people of all ages in the exercise of democracy and to provide tools that will contribute to their becoming active and well-informed citizens, the National Assembly has developed various activities and publications to educate on democracy.

The President's tour of the schools

In order to further instruct students on the operation of the National Assembly, its history and its achievements, during winter 2007, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, conducted a tour of six high schools and met with close to 2000 students and teachers from five cities of Québec: Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Trois-Rivières, Nicolet, Louiseville and Québec City. This tour, whose theme is *The Challenge of Democracy*, falls within the framework of the educational mission of the Assembly. Its aim is to heighten the awareness of young people on the importance of taking part in the democratic process and to present the Assembly as a forum for debates and discussions on the issues affecting their daily lives.

The President, discussing with students from the *Académie Les Estacades* of Cap-de-la-Madeleine.

The tournament and the parliamentary simulations

These educational activities allow the participants to understand the operation of the Assembly, its rules, advantages and limitations. Thanks to this role playing, they draft and discuss bills while learning the art of compromise, consensus and the respect of others.

YOUNG DEMOCRATS' TOURNAMENT FROM 21 TO 23 APRIL 2006

Quiz game on democracy from Ancient Greece to this day

Clientele:	Secondary 4 and 5 and college
Participation:	325 students

Young Democrats' Tournament from 21 to 23 April 2006

Pupils' Parliament on 12 May 2006

PUPILS' PARLIAMENT ON 12 MAY 2006

Clientele:	6th grade elementary
Participation:	110 pupil-Members
Examples of bills considered:	An Act obliging elementary schools to develop management and consumer skills beginning in the first cycle
	An Act to establish food policies in elementary schools

Seniors' Parliament
from 11 to 13 September 2006

SENIORS' PARLIAMENT FROM 11 TO 13 SEPTEMBER 2006

Clientele:	Retirees and pre-retirees
Participation:	110 seniors
Examples of bills considered:	An Act fostering the creation and maintaining of living environment committees in private residences providing services for senior citizens
	An Act respecting the Office de l'hébergement des personnes âgées du Québec

YOUTH PARLIAMENT FROM 26 TO 30 DECEMBER 2006

Clientele:	College and university
Participation:	108 Members and journalists
Examples of bills considered:	An Act respecting the reform of Québec's democratic institutions
	An Act respecting the autonomy of universities and scientific research

STUDENT PARLIAMENT FROM 2 TO 6 JANUARY 2007

Clientele:	College and university
Participation:	150 Members and journalists
Examples of bills considered:	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Consumer Protection Act
	An Act to amend civil union

STUDENT FORUM FROM 7 TO 11 JANUARY 2007

Clientele:	College
Participation:	133 Members, clerk and clerk assistants, journalists and press officers
Examples of bills considered:	An Act fostering accessibility and the promotion of public transportation
	An Act respecting health and dietary practices in schools

Student Forum
from 7 to 11 January 2007

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT FROM 14 TO 16 FEBRUARY 2007

Clientele:	Secondary 3 and 4
Participation:	143 student-Members, clerk and clerk assistants, journalists, press officers and pages
Examples of bills considered:	An Act respecting the implementation of standardized security measures in Québec schools
	An Act respecting the improvement of the school success rate in Québec high schools

Young People's Parliament
from 14 to 16 February 2007

Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation

Since its creation on 21 June 1978, the mission of this Foundation has been to improve, among the general public and young people in particular, the knowledge of our political and parliamentary institutions, be it through its parliaments in high schools project , its internship programme or its conferences.

It has contributed over one million dollars in scholarships for the realization of parliamentary internships in addition to promoting the apprenticeship of the operation of the political and parliamentary institutions by young Québec university students. Some 107 young people have benefited from these internships and have been able to profit from this experience in their career development

The parliamentary internships

Each year, for a 10-month period, the Foundation interns enjoy a hands-on experience of the numerous aspects of Québec parliamentary life. They become more familiar with the operation of the National Assembly and of the institutions that are accountable thereto, namely the Auditor General, the Public Protector, the Chief Electoral Officer and the Lobbyists Commissioner.

Subsequently, each one is paired with a Member of the Government and then with a Member sitting in opposition. The interns also take part in a mission abroad and are required to draft a dissertation.

From left to right: Sia Sia Morel, Sarah Tessier, Lorraine Quevillon, Magalie Paquin and Michel Bédard

The scholarship interns of the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation tabled their dissertations in the presence of the Vice-President of the National Assembly, Mrs. Diane Leblanc, on 29 June 2006. This ceremony marked the end of an internship initiated in September 2005.

The dissertations submitted by the interns concerned the following subjects:

- *La Cour suprême du Canada et le concept d'extension nécessaire : Un commentaire du Renvoi relatif à la Loi sur l'assurance-emploi : (Can.), art. 22 et 23* (Michel Bédard)
- *La participation politique des Afro-Québécois : entre consultation publique et recherche d'un consensus durable* (Sia Sia Morel)
- *Le temps : un élément structurant du champ politique* (Magalie Paquin)
- *La motion de suspension des règles de procédure : Le bâillon constitue-t-il une menace à la démocratie parlementaire?* (Lorraine Quevillon)

These dissertations are available at the Library of the Québec National Assembly.

PARLIAMENTS IN HIGH SCHOOLS

In 2005, the Jean-Charles-Bonenfant Foundation of the National Assembly launched the ambitious project of democracy education called *Parliaments in high schools*. In 2006-2007, this initiative raised the interest and the participation of 54 high schools located in almost all of the regions of Québec.

This educational project focuses on a new student council operating mode inspired by the National Assembly. Just as in the Québec Parliament, a high school parliament consists of a Premier, Ministers, a President and Members, all of whom are elected students.

With regard to this project, the objective of the Foundation is to set up high school parliaments in the greatest number of schools possible over the next four years

The course and training sessions on parliamentary law and procedure

Course offered to university students

For a third consecutive year, the National Assembly and Laval University have formed a partnership to offer a course on parliamentary law and procedure to a university clientele. This course is offered during the 2007 winter session as part of the undergraduate programme of the Law Faculty at Laval University. Tailor-made for law students, it aims to instruct them on the rules and principles that characterize the organization and operation of parliamentary proceedings carried out at the Assembly.

A POLE OF UNIVERSITY EXCELLENCE ON PALIAMENTARISM

On 12 February 2007, the National Assembly entered into an agreement with Québec's Laval University for the purpose of establishing a research chair on democracy and parliamentary institutions. Falling within the perspective of the 400th anniversary of Québec in 2008, this chair aims, among other things, to support research on democratic and parliamentary institutions and to make students aware of the various facets of parliamentary life. The Québec Chief Electoral Officer, the Auditor General, the Lobbyists Commissioner and the Public Protector are also partners of the research chair, to which the French National Assembly is associated.

AN ASSEMBLY THAT IS OPEN TO THE CITIZENS

In the company of guides, the citizens are invited to visit the Parliament Building, which was designed by architect Eugène-Étienne Taché and whose construction spanned from 1877 to 1886. This building is part of a group that has been designated a national historic site. During the tour, guides provide historical details and information on the organization and proceedings of the National Assembly of Québec. At the same time, visitors have the opportunity to discover and admire the architectural characteristics of the building and the richness of the work it contains. Tours are given in French and English and, with an advance reservation, in Spanish, Italian and Québec sign language.

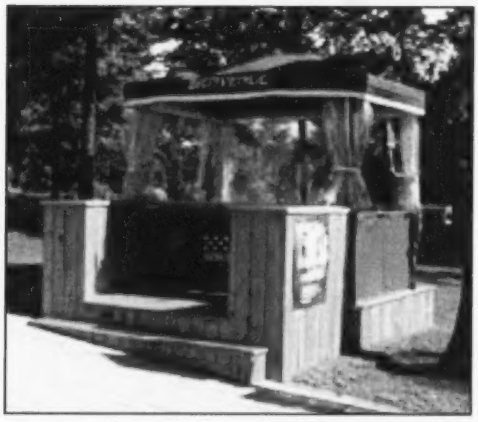
A total of 63,636 persons visited the Parliament Building in 2006-2007

Language	Number	Place of origin	Number
French	45,093	Québec	41,141
English	17,324	Other provinces	4701
Spanish	1030	United States	6677
Italian	175	Other countries	11,117
German	-		
QSL (Québec sign language)	14		

Group of students taking a guided tour of the Parliament Building.

Several visitors take the opportunity when at the Parliament Building to attend the sittings of the Assembly and of the standing committees. One hundred and forty seats are available in the galleries of the National Assembly Chamber and seats are reserved for the public in each of the standing committee rooms.

Young people are not outdone either. In collaboration with the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec (national capital commission), the National Assembly offers several visit programmes for elementary and high school students, some of which are specifically developed for immigrant students and contribute to their French language learning. These activities include not only a visit of the Parliament Building but also a tour of the Premiers' Promenade and of the Capital Observatory.



Pilot project: information stand and outdoor tours

To be even more accessible to the public, the National Assembly set up an information stand where two students were on hand, from Thursday to Sunday between 23 June and 2 September 2006, to answer the various questions posed by passers-by and to offer tours of the National Assembly and of the gardens on the premises of the Parliament Building.

During the past year, **22,057 students** took advantage of a guided tour.

Commission de la capitale nationale		Students groups		Total number of students	
Elementary	3953	Elementary	6270	Elementary	10,223
High school	4434	High school	6414	High school	10,848
Postsecondary	64			Postsecondary	64
		College	738	College	738
		University	184	University	184
Total	**8451**	**Total**	**13,606**	**Total**	**22,057**

The welcoming of cultural communities

Ever-mindful of promoting the work of Members and of reinforcing relations between the parliamentary institutions and the citizens that make up Québec society, irrespective of their origin, the President of the National Assembly invited representatives of various cultural communities of Québec to visit the Parliament Building in 2006-2007.

The following groups were welcomed:

- Kurdish Community: 27 April 2006
- Tibetan Community: 4 May 2006
- Togolese Community: 11 May 2006
- Romanian Community: 2 November 2006
- Cameroonian Community: 9 November 2006
- Mexican Community: 16 November 2006
- Philippine Community: 23 November 2006

AN OUTWARD-LOOKING INSTITUTION

The fourth edition of *Political Book Day in Québec*

On 18 April 2006, over one hundred people took part in the fourth edition of *Political Book Day in Québec*, an activity that aims to promote this literary genre among parliamentarians and the general public.

This edition was characterized by the variety of its programme. The book entitled *Monuments intellectuels québécois du XX^e siècle : grands livres d'érudition, de science et de sagesse*, edited by Claude Corbo, was launched as well as the exhibition *Les revues politiques au Québec : un survol historique*. The conference of Alain Dubuc entitled *Est il encore possible de gouverner?* was followed by a round-table discussion, featuring panelists Madeleine Bélanger, Alain Dubuc, François Gendron, Guy Laforest and Sarah Perreault, on the question *Do we ask too much of our politicians?*

Journée du livre politique au Québec

At the conclusion of the day's activities, awards were given to three authors:

- Mario Cardinal, *Point de rupture Québec/Canada : le référendum de 1995*, Prix de la Présidence de l'Assemblée nationale;
- Anne Mévellec, *La construction politique des agglomérations : logiques politiques et dynamiques institutionnelles. Une comparaison franco québécoise*, Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant and Prix du Ministère des Relations internationales du Québec/Ministère des Affaires étrangères de France;
- Geneviève Shields, *Dynamiques partenaires dans le champ de la main d'œuvre (1996-2003). Le défi d'une nouvelle gouvernance québécoise impliquant les organismes communautaires d'insertion*, Prix de la Fondation Jean-Charles-Bonenfant.

The award winners of the fourth edition of *Political Book Day in Québec* at the Library of the National Assembly.

The launching of the exhibition on political magazines

From 18 April to 13 October 2006, more than 200 people came to the Library of the National Assembly to visit the exhibition *Les revues politiques au Québec : un survol historique*, which presented, through their history, the main political magazines contained in the Library's collection. The exhibition, divided into two parts, 1792-1949 and 1950-2006, contained political magazines detailing the news and political analyses of the era, but also themes closely related to politics such as religion, education and the socioeconomic conditions of the citizens.

Launching of the exhibition on political magazines

The multimedia exhibition entitled *Le Québec, ses députés, ses régions*

On 7 December 2006, the Assembly launched the interactive exhibition entitled *Le Québec, ses députés, ses régions*, a user-friendly meeting place among Members and visitors. Composed of modules displaying the 17 administrative regions of Québec through photographs and interactive touchscreens, this large-scale production gives a voice to the Members in office while providing an intimate description of the various regions of Québec.

The presentation of this exhibition arises from the wish, expressed by the National Assembly in its communications plan, to create special activities to explain the work of the elected officials and to diversify the services offered to some 100,000 people who visit the Parliament Building each year. This exhibition is set up permanently in the Presidents' Gallery and in a section of the Parliament's main entrance hall.

The President, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, at the launching of *Le Québec, ses députés, ses régions* exhibition.

On 10 May 2006, Mr. Jacques Brassard, the Member for Lac-Saint-Jean from 1976 to 2002, was elected president of the Amicale des anciens parlementaires du Québec at the general assembly of members held at the National Assembly's *Le Parlementaire* restaurant.

The vignettes *À la découverte de l'Assemblée*

With a desire to enrich the programming of its television channel, the National Assembly produced, in the spring of 2006, 18 five-minute vignettes explaining or popularizing certain aspects of the operation of our institution as well as the roles and responsibilities of the Members.

These vignettes entitled *À la découverte de l'Assemblée* concern more particularly the role of the Chair, the parliamentary functions, the mandates and the operation of the standing committees, the stages of a bill and the Members' roles of legislator, controller and intermediary. Two vignettes present the services offered to citizens at the Parliament Building (guided tours, restaurants, boutique) and the educational activities organized by the Assembly for the various clienteles. All of these vignettes are available on-line at the following address: http://www.assnat.qc.ca/fra/travaux/Debats/banquevideo/capsules.html..

The series of programmes entitled *Mémoires de députés*

On 5 November 2006, the National Assembly Channel enriched its programming by initiating the broadcasting of the series entitled *Mémoires de députés* produced by the Assembly from interviews with former Québec parliamentarians conducted by journalist Gilles Morin, in collaboration with the Amicale des anciens parlementaires.

With sensitivity and a touch of humour, these former Members recall the reasons that moved them to enter politics, their achievements in contributing to the development of their region or of Québec, their life at the National Assembly, in addition to reflections on certain facets of our parliamentary system. All shed a new and different light on major events, important debates or significant reforms in the history of Québec.

Among those interviewed are former Premiers Daniel and Pierre Marc Johnson and former Ministers Lise Bacon, Robert Burns, Claude Castonguay, Raymond Garneau, Paul Gérin-Lajoie and Marie-Claire Kirkland, as well as Members such as Camil Samson and Fabien Roy.

The complete series entitled *Mémoires de députés* and the list of former parliamentarians interviewed are available on the Internet site of the National Assembly at the following address: www.assnat.qc.ca/memoires.

THE UNVEILING OF THE ROBERT BOURASSA MONUMENT AND THE INAUGURATION OF THE *LIRE BOURASSA* EXHIBITION

On Thursday, 19 October 2006, the President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, Mrs. Andrée S. Bourassa, her children and grandchildren unveiled, on the grounds of the Parliament Building, a monument in honour of Mr. Robert Bourassa, Premier of Québec from 1970 to 1976 and from 1985 to 1994.

Offered by the *Comité de commémoration du dixième anniversaire du décès de monsieur Bourassa*, the monument is erected in the gardens of the Parliament Building, on the north ambulatory, along Honoré-Mercier Avenue. The *Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec*, which is responsible for the development of Parliament Hill, collaborated with the members of the *Comité de commémoration* in bringing this endeavour to fruition. The monument was created by Québec sculptor-moulder Jules Lasalle, who has created several commemorative works of art to pay homage to famous historical figures, including Marguerite Bourgeoys and Maurice Richard.

On the same day, the Library of the National Assembly inaugurated an exhibition entitled *Lire Bourassa*, in order to discover, among other things, a few of the books and articles that he wrote during his political career, and others that were written about him.

Messrs. Jean Charest, Premier of Québec, André Boisclair, Leader of the Official Opposition, and Michel Bissonnet, President of the National Assembly of Québec, at the launching of the *Lire Bourassa* exhibition, on 19 October 2006, at the Library of the National Assembly.

The summer and winter brunches of *Le Parlementaire* restaurant

To make known its dining room to the greatest number of visitors, the National Assembly's *Le Parlementaire* restaurant exceptionally opened its doors to the public on Sunday on five occasions. The most discriminating palates were thus able to enjoy country-style cooking during brunches held to celebrate Québec's national holiday, the summer festival, the Fêtes de la Nouvelle-France and the Québec Winter Carnival. These Sunday brunches had a very high attendance rate.

THE RESTAURANTS' PRIVATE ACTIVITIES

Businesses and organizations can henceforth call upon the food and catering services of *Le Parlementaire* restaurant and *Le Mini-Débat* cafeteria.

This year, several groups took advantage of these various services, which brought more than 40,000 persons to the Parliament Building for a visit of this bicentennial heritage building and for a taste of the cuisine of *Le Parlementaire* restaurant.

The President of the National Assembly, Mr. Michel Bissonnet, accompanied by Bonhomme at the Carnival brunch held at *Le Parlementaire* restaurant.

New and leaner graphic platform!

Synonymous with openness and simplicity, the message must be the dominant feature, supported by a graphic style that highlights this element and underscores its importance.

The approach is based on a simple and user-friendly layout:

- at the bottom of the page, the blue identification banner;
- above the image, the logo and positioning statement
- the imagery – which is composed of photos placing the human element at the forefront – in a vaporous setting;
- in the background, watermarked, the framework in which the main visual element is placed;
- in a mortise, a striking photo of another view of the Parliament Building;
- the *Ocean* typography with its own style without serifs.

COMMUNICATIONS

The new institutional signature

For the past several years, the National Assembly has been devoted to making its mission known and to fostering closer relations with the citizens. In order to achieve this, it has developed a *Public Communications Plan* which covers the 2005-2009 period.

In 2006, the National Assembly adopted a new institutional signature which places the message «A place for every citizen» at the heart of the institution's public communications.

The institutional signature will appear on publications, advertisements and promotions, on various electronic displays, on the Internet site and on the Assembly Channel.

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE
QUÉBEC

A place for every citizen

The Internet site

In 2006-2007, the Assembly continued to develop the content of its Internet site. The capacity to provide live audio-video webcasts increased from four to eight events simultaneously. Furthermore, citizens were given the opportunity to submit their opinion on four subjects being examined in parliamentary committee via on-line consultations. It should also be noted that new information is being put on-line, including the *Mémoires de députés* series and the *À la découverte de l'Assemblée* vignettes, along with the digitized debates from the First Session of the Thirty-fourth Legislature (from 28 November 1989 to 18 March 1992) as well as the broadcasting of the *Répertoire des fonds d'archives de parlementaires québécois*, which allows users to track documents belonging to Members, legislative advisors, special advisors, governors and lieutenant-governors since 1792. Furthermore, the section devoted to *Le Parlementaire* restaurant was redesigned. Henceforth, visitors will find information on private receptions as well as a photo album. This site may be accessed at the following address: www.assnat.qc.ca.

The Assembly Channel

The National Assembly's television channel is a unique tool that allows Québec's population to learn more about the machinery of our parliamentary democracy. Since its creation in October 1978, the Channel has never ceased to modernize itself. Its mandate to broadcast and archive the proceedings in the National Assembly Room has been enriched, since 1997, by the coverage of the standing committees, the press meetings, the parliamentary simulations and protocolary events. A multidisciplinary team composed of directors, cameramen, audio operators, installers, transcribers and editors revolves around this tool that has now become indispensable, as it ensures the population's access to the proceedings and activities taking place at the National Assembly. Broadcasting on the National Assembly Channel is either live, prerecorded or rebroadcast. Webcasting on the National Assembly site is live.

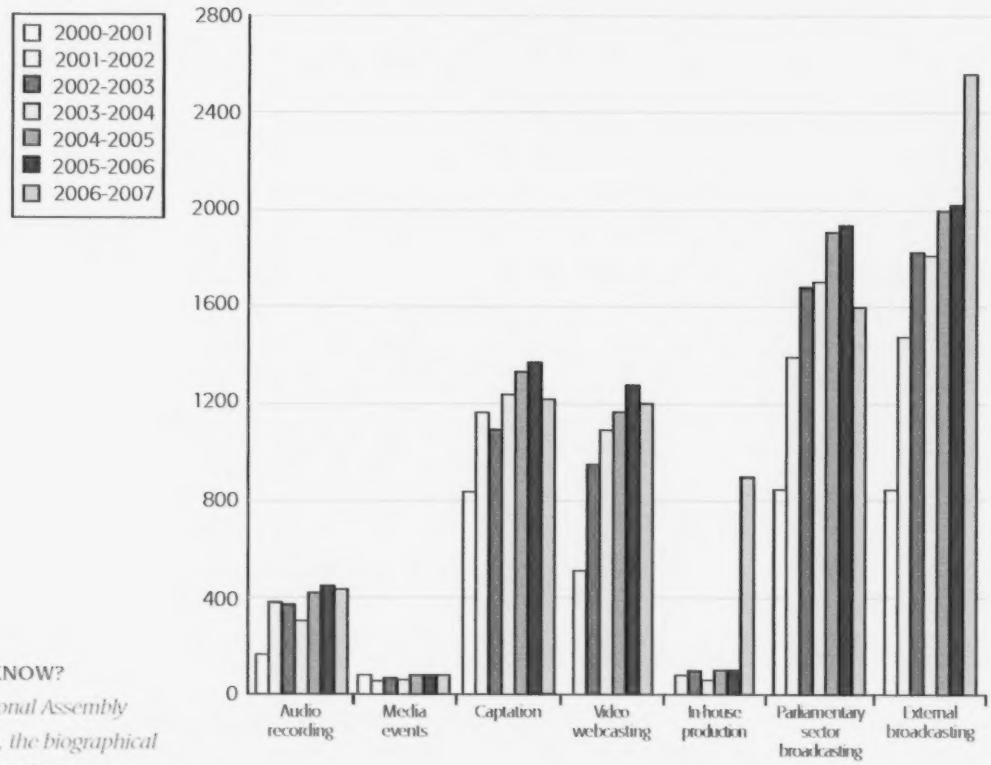
This table highlights the captation and broadcast activities carried out in 2006-2007:

Captation service		Number of events	Duration
Televisual captation		702	1236:12
On-location recording		75	258:09
Audio recording		205	442:30
Digital recording, *Journal des débats* (Hansard)		997	1714:38
National Assembly Channel		**Number of events**	**Duration**
Parliamentary activities	Parliamentary proceedings and media events	947	1612:54
In-house production	*À la découverte de l'Assemblée* Vignettes	n/a	688:40
	Mémoires de députés	n/a	58:44
	Members' holiday greetings (national holiday and Christmas holidays)	n/a	186:14
Total external broadcasting			2546:32
Continuous electronic hosting			6213:28
Total			**8760:00**

DID YOU KNOW?

Assembly Channel television viewers may now more quickly identify the context of the event they are viewing thanks to a new technology called Vertigo. Indeed, the text generator now provides other pieces of information, in addition to the name of the person speaking and the subject being discussed. This software, which was put into place in autumn 2006, displays scrolling text at the bottom of the screen which is retrieved information from a data bank. The parliamentary and protocolary events of the day may thus be announced in addition to the Channel's programming.

Statistics - Fiscal years 2000 to 2007
Broadcasting on the National Assembly Channel (number of hours)



DID YOU KNOW?

On the National Assembly Internet site, the biographical notices of Members and the webcasts were the most frequently visited sections in 2006-2007. The biographical notices section contains a wealth of information on the elected officials, is continually updated and easily accessible to citizens.

As regards webcasting, this service provides citizens with live coverage of a great deal of information relating to the parliamentary proceedings, including the National Assembly and committee debates, press conferences and other public events held by parliamentarians.

JEUNES EXPLORATEURS D'UN JOUR

On 26 and 27 April 2006, the second edition of the programme entitled *Jeunes explorateurs d'un jour* was held at the Assembly. This activity, which received the collaboration of the Interparliamentary and International Relations and the Debates Broadcasting and publishing Directorates, enabled a dozen eager high school students to find out more about an occupation that interests them such as that of international relations advisor or producer. Sponsored by one of the directorate's employees, they were given the opportunity to delve into a new work environment and discover the multiple facets of the profession that they are passionate about. This activity is offered to students at a strategic time in their lives, when they must make choices that are sometimes difficult with regard to their professional future.

The National Assembly and PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

In our democratic systems, which are based on the separation of powers, Parliaments conduct their international relations independently and in respect of political pluralism. The President of the National Assembly has the responsibility of representing the institution during international activities, whose non-partisan nature is ensured by delegations composed of Members from the various political groups represented at the Assembly. For over half a century, the National Assembly has developed an important network of interparliamentary relations.

MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

The Assemblée parlementaire de la francophonie (APF)

The National Assembly of Québec is very active within the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF), which constitutes a privileged forum to discuss themes that Québec elected officials hold close to their hearts, including culture, education and parliamentary democracy.

Hence, it fostered the ratification of the *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*, a subject on which the President of the National Assembly, also Vice-Chairman of the APF, gave an address during the general debate of the 32nd Session of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, from 29 June to 3 July 2006. During this Session, the National Assembly co-authored with France a notice on information technology in education, adopted by the Plenary Assembly and then presented at the 11th Summit of Heads of State and Government of French-speaking countries, in Bucharest, in September 2006.

At the Session held in Rabat, Morocco, and owing to the legislative elections in Haiti, the APF decided to lift the suspension measure of its Haitian section. The President of the National Assembly suggested that the APF's cooperation activities resume without delay with the authorities of the Haitian Parliament. It is in this perspective that the APF conducted a high-level contact mission in Haiti, from 4 to 8 September 2006, in which the President of the National Assembly of Québec took part.

As regards the cooperation activities of the APF, the Québec Section was invited to give a conference at the information seminar on the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW), in Tunis, in October 2006. This conference followed up on the «Appeal on violence against women and children» issued during the plenary session in Morocco.

For the first time, at the initiative of the National Assembly of Québec, a Québec Member took part in the 5th Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organisation (WTO), held in Geneva in December 2006. The APF's Cooperation and Development Committee thus examines the follow up to international trade negotiations within the framework of the WTO, and the APF takes part in the

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The international relations of the National Assembly are based on four fundamental objectives:

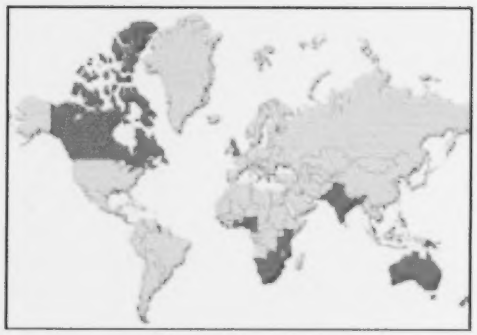
1. Maintain and reinforce the effectiveness of the parliamentary institution and elected officials in their duties;
2. Actively participate in building a global community founded on democracy, peace, justice, and prosperity;
3. Improve the position of the National Assembly on the international scene and thus contribute to broadening the outreach of Québec society;
4. Enhance the institutional outreach of the National Assembly within interparliamentary networks.

GLOSSARY

APF

Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie): founded in 1967, composed of 72 Parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from 54 countries. (National Assembly: full member since 1974)

The member sections of the APF



The member sections of the CPA

GLOSSARY

CPA

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: founded in 1911, composed of 171 Parliaments of unitary, federal and federated States from 54 countries. (National Assembly: full member since 1933)

COPA

Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas: composed of 35 countries and 300 assemblies, created in 1997 on the initiative of the National Assembly of Québec, composed of the parliamentary assemblies of the unitary, federal and federated States, the regional Parliaments and the interparliamentary organizations of the Americas.

The member conferences and parliamentary assemblies of the COPA

parliamentary conferences aiming to inform parliamentarians worldwide on the issues surrounding current multilateral trade negotiations.

The Americas Region of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, whose Secretariat is headquartered at the National Assembly, sees to the follow-up of mandates and of the achievements of the APF among the French-speaking parliamentarians of the Americas. In 2006-2007, Québec parliamentarians were present at all of the Region's meetings.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

During 2006-2007, the National Assembly contributed to the development of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians of the Canadian Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, by taking the chairmanship of the Network and by contributing to the adoption of its statutes. Hence, the National Assembly represented the Canadian Section of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians at the 52nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference which was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 1 to 10 September 2006.

The Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)

During the year, the National Assembly took part in three electoral observation missions of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas, in Mexico in July 2006, in Brazil in October 2006 and in Nicaragua in November 2006. The purpose of these missions was to assess pre-election preparations and to observe the conduct of the election on polling day. All of these multilateral missions, bringing together parliamentarians of the Americas, were led by a Québec Member and organized by the Québec Secretariat of the COPA, headquartered at the National Assembly, in collaboration with the Chief Electoral Officer of Québec, thus enabling the development of valuable expertise in the field of electoral observations.

Through their mission reports, which are submitted to the election authorities of each of the countries observed and made public on the COPA Internet site, the COPA parliamentarians made recommendations concerning the election process and the election laws in effect in the three countries visited.

Furthermore, from 29 May to 4 June 2006, a National Assembly delegation participated in the 7th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas which was held in Quito, Ecuador. Some sixty parliamentarians hailing from 14 countries met under the theme «Trade agreements and economic development «.

The 6th Annual Meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas, which was held within the framework of this 7th General Assembly, took place under the theme of the implementation of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol in the Americas.

At the conclusion of the proceedings, the parliamentarians adopted the Quito Declaration, in Ecuador, which includes the main recommendations stemming from the committee proceedings conducted by the Network of Women Parliamentarians, particularly with regard to the situation in Haiti, the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, sexual and reproductive rights, as well as the integration process underway on the American continent. The parliamentarians also reiterated their wish to meet in Québec City on the occasion of the city's 400th anniversary celebrations, in May 2008.

Moreover, the COPA General Assembly reaffirmed its wish to initiate dialogue with the Interparliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA). For this purpose, a joint working committee promoting the exchange of information and the examination of structures was established to enable the eventual integration of both organizations.

The American interparliamentary organizations (ERC, CSG, NCSL)

As an international associated member of the *Council of State Governments (CSG)* and of its Eastern Chapter, the Eastern Regional Conference (ERC), the National Assembly holds responsible positions on the executive committees of the CSG and the ERC, as well as the vice-chairmanship of the Committee on Canada-United-States Relations and of the Committee on Energy and the Environment.

The National Assembly is also an international associated member of the *National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)*. In this capacity, it is a member of the Executive Committee and participates in the deliberations of the General Assembly and of the organization's standing committees in which Québec Members regularly put forward Québec's interests with regard to border security, energy and free trade.

Within the framework of these two American interparliamentary organizations, the National Assembly has on several occasions promoted resolutions aiming to postpone the *Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI)*, a measure requiring all travellers to carry a valid passport when entering the United States.

GLOSSARY

CSG

Council of State Governments: organization created in 1933, composed of representatives of the executive, legislative and judicial powers from the 50 United States and territories. (National Assembly: international associated member since 1995).

ERC/CSG

Eastern Regional Conference of the Council of State Governments: organization which constitutes the Eastern Chapter of the CSG and which is composed of parliamentarians and governmental representatives of the Northeastern United States as well as the five Canadian member provinces (National Assembly: international associated member since 1990).

NCSL

National Conference of State Legislatures: American interparliamentary organization founded in 1975, composed of parliamentarians and public servants of the Legislative Assemblies from the 50 United States and 6 American territories. (National Assembly: international associated member since 2000).

The member parliamentary assemblies of the NCSL

Electoral observation mission of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA), during the Mexican presidential and legislative elections on 2 July 2006.

SIGNING OF A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF QUÉBEC STUDIES

The International Association of Québec Studies (AIÉQ) was created in May 1997 to bring together, within an international network, those who have chosen Québec as the subject of their research, their publications, their teaching or their studies. Currently, the Association has 2200 Québec studies enthusiasts in 65 countries. This organization therefore holds a special importance in the outreach of Québec and of its institutions abroad.

On 16 May 2006, the National Assembly signed an agreement with the AIÉQ in which it offers one remunerated three-month internship per year to foreign students who are interested in Québec life and its political institutions.

From September to December 2006, a first internship was carried out at the Committees Secretariat of the National Assembly.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

In 2006-2007, the National Assembly welcomed numerous delegations of parliamentarians from the partners with whom it signed bilateral agreements: Ontario, the French Community of Belgium, Wallonia, France and Catalonia. The discussions focussed on subjects such as the latest developments in relations between Northern Québec Natives and the Government of Québec, security, water management and the conservation of the religious heritage, the role of the regions within the European Union and Canadian federalism.

Likewise, in pursuance of the Agreement signed with the Parliament of Bavaria, Québec parliamentarians travelled to Munich, from 24 to 29 September 2006, to take part in the 3rd Session of the Québec-Bavaria Joint Parliamentary Committee, whose deliberations more particularly concerned parliamentary work, the role of Bavaria within the European Union and the evaluation of the Québec-Bavaria governmental cooperation.

Relations with the European institutions

Very active in its relations with various European institutions during the past ten years, the National Assembly held several meetings with European parliamentarians during the fall of 2006. To begin with, for the first time, two Québec Members took the floor at the 13th Plenary Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (CLRAE), in Strasbourg. Then, from 25 to 27 October 2006, the National Assembly hosted a meeting of the Committee on Agriculture, the Environment and Local and Regional Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. In both cases, the European parliamentarians were especially interested in regionalization, climate warming, water management and energy.

During 2006-2007, the Québec National Assembly also established relations with an important regional organization, the Conference of the European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE), bringing together the presidents of the European regional parliaments. A Member was invited to address this organization's annual assembly, on 30 and 31 October 2006.

Lastly, the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Canada travelled to Québec City in November to discuss immigration and regionalization.

INTERPARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

For several years now, the National Assembly has offered its collaboration to parliamentary institutions in emerging and consolidating democracies by providing technical support to reinforce their operational capabilities at both the parliamentary and administrative levels, actively accompanying them as they take charge of their own institutional development programme.

It is within this framework that a mission led by the President of the National Assembly was carried out at the Chamber of Representatives of the Kingdom of Morocco, from 17 to 19 April 2006. This mission provided an opportunity to exchange views with the President and the highest political and administrative authorities of this Parliament.

The National Assembly also was the host, in Québec City, from 24 to 28 April 2006, of a discussion seminar for the secretaries general of four French-speaking African Parliaments, namely the Republic of Benin, the Republic of Congo, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and the Union of Comoros. The various working meetings offered these senior public servants an opportunity to learn about the organization and proceedings of the National Assembly of Québec and to develop both their parliamentary and administrative expertise.

Lastly, an invitation was sent out to the presidents of the two Houses of the Parliament of Haiti, in anticipation of a working visit to Québec City and of a discussion seminar with both secretaries general.

THE OFFICIAL VISITS

The international commitments of the National Assembly bring a great number of foreign dignitaries to Québec City. Among these, in 2006-2007, the National Assembly welcomed the following:

Official visits of assembly presidents:

His Excellency Mr. Eduardo **Frei Ruiz-Tagle**, President of the Senate of the Republic of Chile;

Mr. Victor Alcides **Bogado Gonzales**, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Paraguay;

His Excellency Mr. Foued **Mebazza**, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic of Tunisia;

Mr. Yavuz **Mildon**, President of the Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (CLRAE);

Mr. Michael **Polley**, Speaker of the House of Assembly of Tasmania (Australia);

Mr. Ernest **Benach**, President of the Parliament of Catalonia (Spain).

Official visits of parliamentarians:

3rd Session of the Québec National Assembly - Walloon Parliament Joint Committee;

Meeting of the Political Committee of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF);

20th Session of the Commission interparlementaire franco-québécoise (CIFQ);

Delegation of senators from the Groupe interparlementaire France-Québec of the Senate of the French Republic;

Meeting of the Committee on Agriculture, the Environment and Local and Regional Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE);

Delegation of parliamentarians on the occasion of the 52nd Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO;

Delegation of the European Parliament for Relations with Canada;

Delegation of parliamentarians of the Parliament of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka;

Delegation of parliamentarians from Maine;

Meeting of the Executive Committee and of the Committee of the Annual Assembly of the *Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference;*

Mrs. Martine **Bondo**, Senator of the Gabonese Republic;

Mr. Leandro Chacalluca **Mamani**, Deputy of the Republic of Bolivia;

Mr. Pierre **Lasborde**, Deputy of the National Assembly of the French Republic.

Official visits of government or international organization representatives:

Their Majesties **King Carl XVI Gustaf** and **Queen Silvia** of Sweden;

Mr. René **Préval**, President of the Republic of Haiti;

Mr. Jean-Pierre **Roth**, Minister of the Economy and Cooperation of the Republic and District of Jura;

Mrs. Emilia **Müller**, Bavarian Minister of State for Federal and European Affairs;

Mr. Josep Maria **Rané**, Minister of Employment and Industry of the Catalonian Generalitat;

Dr. Günther **Beckstein**, Vice-minister President and Minister of State for Internal Affairs of Bavaria;

Mrs. Nouzha **Chekrouni**, Moroccan Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and responsible for Moroccans residing outside of the country;

Mr. Jim **Douglas**, Governor of Vermont (United States of America) and Chairman of the *Council of State Governments;*

Mr. José Natividad **Gonzalez Paras**, Governor of the State of Nuevo Leon of the United States of Mexico, and a delegation from the State of Colima of the United States of Mexico, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the presence of Québec in Mexico;

Mr. Yves **Leterme**, Minister-President of the Flemish Government;

Mr. Gilles de **Robien**, Minister of National Education, Advanced Studies and Research of the French Republic;

Mr. Slaheddine **Makhlouf**, Secretary of State to the Minister of Trade responsible for Handicrafts of the Republic of Tunisia;

Mr. Guy **Fleury**, Secretary General of the Government of the Republic of Haiti.

The National Assembly and THE HERITAGE

THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

In 2006-2007, the National Assembly acquired three heritage object collections. They are:

The Gervais collection

During 2006-2007, Mr. Richard G. Gervais donated a collection of over 1100 objects to the National Assembly, including portraits, medallions, busts and statues of lieutenant-governors, premiers and public figures unfolding the political and religious history of Québec and Canada since 1875.

The Lomer-Gouin collection

Last September, the National Assembly acquired a collection of heritage assets having belonged to the family of Sir Lomer Gouin, Premier of Québec from 1905 to 1920. These objects, which provide information on the social and political life of this man, include medals having been awarded to him by France, Belgium and the United Kingdom as well as a tray and tea set decorated with the coat of arms and the family motto «Bien vouloir et faire».

The Marcel-Masse collection

Last October, Mr. Marcel Masse donated objects that bear witness to his political life on the provincial and federal scenes. The collection is composed more particularly of ceremonial shovels, personalized name plates, a painting and promotional items.

The 1139 components of these three highly valued collections are in addition to the 2223 objects indexed in the heritage data base conserved by the Library of the National Assembly.

The George-Étienne Cartier Centenary Medal (1814-1914), presented to the Honourable Lomer Gouin on the occasion of the unveiling of the Cartier monument in Montréal, on 6 September 1919.

Library collections

As at 31 March 2007, the Library had on its shelves over two million documents, distributed as follows:

Printed matter	
Monographs, fascicles, brochures	480,533
Magazines	276,727
Newpapers	679,884
Microform records	
Microfilms	35,308
Microfiches	560,862
Electronic documents	2165
Audio recordings	191
Videocassettes	876
Posters, maps and photographs	999
Total	**2,037,545**

A FEW FIGURES...

In 2006-2007, the personnel of the Reference Service answered **10,820 information** and search requests. Of this number, **4414 were made by parliamentarians**, their staff, the personnel of the National Assembly, or organizations under the authority of the National Assembly.

Over **8023 persons passed the doors of the Library** either as users, guests at special events or simply as visitors.

Patrons used the Library collections in the following manner: **67,920 on site consultations**; **6216 borrowed documents**; and over **145,000 requests for photocopies**.

The Library's computerized catalogue, which enables users to locate the documents it holds and gives direct access to electronic resources, may be consulted on the Internet site of the National Assembly. This catalogue now contains 282,632 descriptive entries, providing access to 30,516 electronic documents.

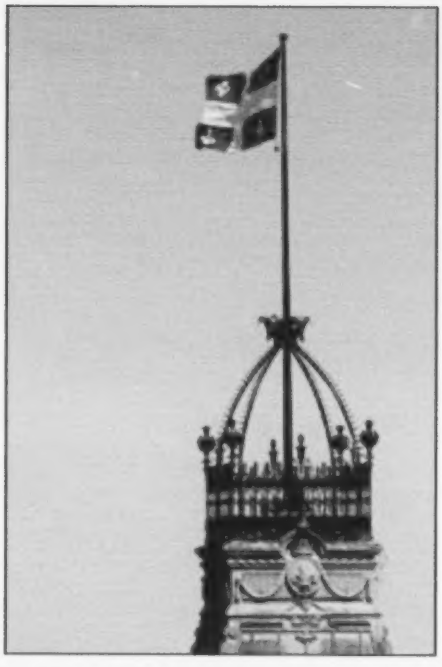
THE ARCHITECTURAL AND URBAN HERITAGE

With a view to conserving its urban and architectural heritage, the National Assembly carried out several projects focussing on the restoration and enhancement of its buildings in 2006-2007.

To start with, in the fourth and fifth phases of the restoration of the Parliament Building premises, 54 of the 300 offices set aside for parliamentarians and their personnel were renovated. This work was required as these areas had not undergone a thorough restoration since the Parliament was built over 120 years ago.

Following this, work on the masonry of the Parliament Building's central tower was carried out in hopes of ensuring the long-term conservation of the main component of the Parliament's architecture.

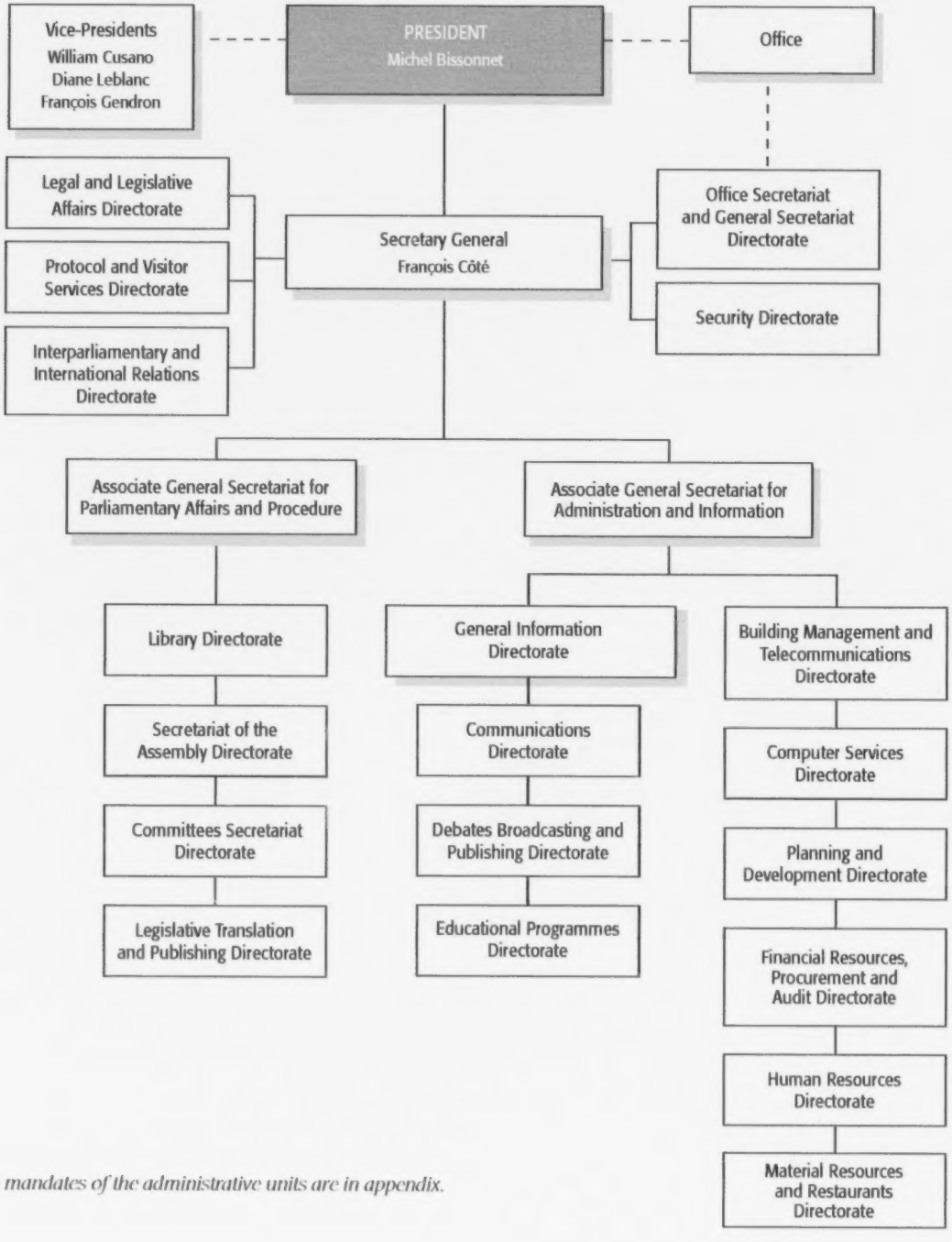
Lastly, the first phase of the restoration of the cornice of Jean-Antoine-Panet Building was also carried out, to ensure the building's longevity and to make the premises safer for both occupants and visitors.



The crown of the Parliament Building in May 2006, after its restoration.

The National Assembly and THE ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AS AT 21 FEBRUARY 2007

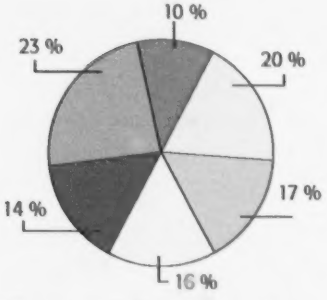


The mandates of the administrative units are in appendix.

THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY

The administration of the National Assembly is carried out within the framework of the statutes, regulations and rules that apply thereto. However, in order to preserve the administrative autonomy of the institution, the Act respecting the National Assembly established the Office of the National Assembly, which acts as its administrative board. The Office adopts any measure it deems necessary for the proper administration of the Assembly. It must, among other duties, approve the budgetary estimates of the Assembly and make decisions in sectors that closely involve Members, such as their various allowances and working conditions.

Statistics on the distribution of the administrative sector workforce per employment category



35 years and under	23 %
36-40 years	10 %
41-45 years	14 %
46-50 years	17 %
51-55 years	20 %
56 years and over	16 %

THE PERSONNEL

The workforce

As at 31 March 2007, the authorized workforce of the administrative sector of the National Assembly consisted of 563 regular employees and 71 casual employees, for a total of 634 employees. The political sector, composed of executive assistants, political attachés, advisors and support staff, employed 512 persons, both on Parliament Hill and in the Members' riding offices.

Statistics on the distribution of the administrative sector workforce per employment category:

EMPLOYEES PER EMPLOYMENT CATEGORY:	
Executives	5 %
Professionals	24 %
Public servants	49 %
Workers	16 %
Peace officers	6 %
Others	0 %
Women	50 %
Men	50 %

The employees - 25 years of service

In 2006-2007, the National Assembly expressed its recognition and gratitude to the nine employees who, in the past year, attained 25 years of service at the National Assembly or in the public service. Of this number, seven individuals celebrated a quarter of a century of work at the Assembly.

EMPLOYEES HAVING ATTAINED 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	WITHIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE
Anne Bannon	Valère Béland
Denis Chouinard	Jacques Morin
Réjean Dionne	
Jean-François Gagné	
Gilles Jourdain	
Anne Pépin	
Marie Tanguay	

During the past year, nine employees celebrated 25 years in the public service or at the National Assembly.

Development

Training offered to the personnel of the Assembly

In 2006-2007, the public service personnel of the Assembly and the newly-hired professionals were given a course on parliamentary procedure to familiarize them with the organization and proceedings of the Assembly and of the parliamentary committees. It should be mentioned that the *Strategic Plan of the Administration of the National Assembly for 2004-2009* provides that all of the Assembly personnel must have taken part in parliamentary procedure courses. To date, over 300 persons from the parliamentary and administrative sectors have taken this course.

Training offered to the Assembly's designated personnel

In autumn 2006, two sessions of this same course were given to the professional staff of the Auditor General of Québec, which completed this clientele's training. More than fifty individuals participated.

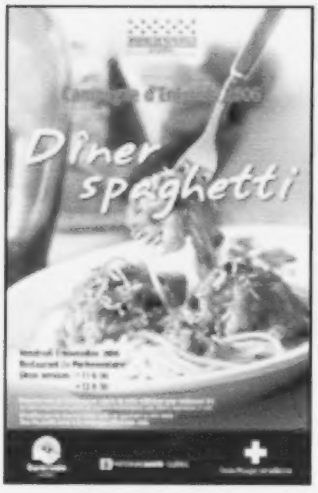
Performance, expectations and skills

In accordance with the *Strategic Plan of the Administration of the National Assembly for 2004-2009* and with the values conveyed by the administrators of the Assembly, a performance management programme was developed to enable the attainment of organizational goals. Similarly, the year 2006-2007 was particularly dynamic as, in addition to benefiting from a skills development plan, the majority of administrators and employees received signified expectations, rendering into concrete actions the organization's major strategic orientations. This practice bears witness to the importance that the personnel adhere to the values of our institution.

Information sessions on harassment

Information sessions were organized for the employees of the National Assembly for the purpose of increasing their understanding of psychological harassment in the workplace and of informing them on the legal framework and the responsibilities of the main intervening parties in this matter.

A total of 209 employees took part in some fifteen sessions held in 2006-2007.



Fund-raising campaign: Entraide 2006

This year, the *Entraide 2006* campaign of the National Assembly distinguished itself by bringing together the Canadian Red Cross/Québec Division, the organizations affiliated to Partenaire Santé-Québec and Centraide to hold a single fund-raising campaign. Through donations withheld at source, the *Entraide 2006* campaign of the Assembly raised a total of **$46,044**.

The members of the political and administrative personnel of the Assembly also took part in large numbers in the activities held in relation to this campaign (happy hour, spaghetti lunch, mussels and French fries lunch, items auction, desserts auction) and thus helped to collect a sum of **$7610** which was distributed among the various recipient organizations of the *Entraide 2006* campaign.

THE ASSEMBLY IS MODERNIZED

Technological support

The Greffier (Clerk) site is a tool that was put into place by the Computer Branch to improve, among other things, the management of visits for Oral Questions and Answers and the work of Members in parliamentary committee.

Since May 2006, the Greffier site is accessible to all members of the parliamentary committees. It serves as a virtual library in which the Members as well as the political and administrative staff may consult all of the documentation related to the parliamentary committee mandates (texts of bills and of amendments, documents tabled and minutes, consultation or information documents, briefs, reports, media reviews, links to pertinent sites, etc.).

The site, a secure virtual collaborative workspace that is accessible both on Parliament Hill and in the electoral divisions, groups together 345 subscribers and, at the end of the 37th Legislature, contained 6007 documents. The content of the site is the fruit of the daily collaboration of the Computer Branch, the Library, the Communications Branch and the Secretariat of Committees. The Legal Service Branches of the ministries also contribute information to this virtual library.

CLIENT SUPPORT AT A GLANCE

Again in 2006-2007, the Computer Directorate's client support service answered several requests from the political and administrative sectors of the Assembly:

Indexed telephone assistance calls:	**9993**
Other service calls received:	**4000**
Emergency service:	**175**
Training days:	**103**
Training to parliamentarians and their staff:	**19 %**

The Computer Directorate continued to diversify its training course possibilities by deploying a virtual course infrastructure and by conducting a training course using this tool. Supported by technologies that facilitate video, audio and text transfers, this type of training enabled the instructor present on Parliament Hill to interact online with the various learners located in different geographic regions of the Province of Québec.

The National Assembly's office automation network consists of **1168 microcomputers** and of **393 printers** installed on Parliament Hill and in the riding offices. The Computer Directorate also has **90 servers** at the disposal of its clients.

Technological change toward digital printing

During 2006-2007, the National Assembly turned to digital technology by reorganizing its printing activities. It is responsible for the two photocopying centres located in its buildings and these centres were relocated on Parliament Hill. The majority of employees received the training required to carry out this technological transfer. This transition was necessary in order to provide better products to its clientele, to improve the performance of services rendered and to strive towards reducing operating expenses.

DEVELOPMENT OF *SAGIR-SGR1* AND OF ITS INTRANET PAGE

SAGIR (*Solution d'affaires en gestion intégrée des ressources*) is a strategy for the progressive replacement of management systems carried out in seven stages. At the National Assembly, the development of the first stage, consisting of the financial and material resources procedures, began in May 2006 and will be in place in autumn 2007 rather than in the spring, as initially scheduled, owing to the general election being called.

On 11 October 2006, an intranet page entitled *SAGIR-EXPRESS* was launched to provide, in popularized terms, all essential information regarding SAGIR to the political and administrative clienteles of the Assembly. This page contains more particularly the important messages from the Secretary General and from the coordinator, a calendar of activities, a section concerning training, a section on frequently asked questions and various other details on the whys and wherefores of the project.

The parliamentary procedure research team.

On 20 April 2006, Norman Paradis, responsible for prevention, Guy L. Huot, co-chairman and employer representative on the committee, Diane Giroux, human resource management advisor, Alain Martineau, responsible for prevention, and Toan Trong Cung, committee member, received, on behalf of the National Assembly, the Innovation award for the design of an electric cart.

LAUNCHING OF *PORTRAIT DE FAMILLE* IN THE INTRANET PORTAL

Portrait de famille is a pilot project aiming first and foremost to make the National Assembly better known to users and to develop a « family spirit » among the directorates. Each edition consists of a photograph of the members of the group featured, a summary of the duties and achievements of this team and a description of its role within the Assembly.

On Thursday, 8 February 2007, the very first edition of *Portrait de famille* broadcast in the intranet Portal, presented the parliamentary procedure research staff.

INNOVATION AWARD FOR THE ELECTRIC CART

At its annual assembly held on 26 April 2006, the *Association paritaire pour la santé et la sécurité du travail secteur administration provinciale* (APSSAP) awarded the National Assembly the *Grand Prix du jury* of the eighth edition of the *Mérite APSSAP* for designing an electric cart used for transporting computer materials.

This new equipment, which was for the most part designed in collaboration with the Computer Directorate employees, facilitates the work of the technicians responsible for the installation of equipment and contributes to accident prevention.

It should be mentioned that the purpose of the *Mérite APSSAP* is to mark work accident prevention initiatives in Québec's public administration sector.

THE ASSEMBLY EXPENDITURE

	Expenditure ($ 000)	Authorized staff positions	
		Permanent employees*	Casual employees*
GENERAL SECRETARIAT, LEGAL AFFAIRS, INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS AND SECURITY			
Office of the Secretary General	1,145.5	17	0
Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate	530.3	6	0
Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate	2,219.6	32	5
Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate	2,282.0	23	0
Security Directorate	3,775.8	76	13
	9,953.2	**154**	**18**
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LIBRARY			
Associate General Secretariat for Parliamentary Affairs and Procedure	488.2	10	0
Library Directorate	4,948.7	83	2
Assembly Secretariat Directorate	617.6	10	3
Committees Secretariat Directorate	1,176.6	21	1
Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate	470.8	17	0
	7,701.9	**141**	**6**
INFORMATIONAL AFFAIRS			
Associate General Secretariat for Administration and Information	299.2	4	0
General Information Directorate	148.9	2	0
Communications Directorate	1,576.5	23	1
Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate	4,137.7	61	29
Educational Programmes Directorate	612.8	8	0
	6,775.1	**98**	**30**
ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS			
Building Management and Telecommunications Directorate	11,658.0	33	1
Computer Services Directorate	3,777.2	43	0
Planning and Development Directorate	461.1	0	0
Financial Ressources, Procurement and Audit Directorate	1,346.5	24	0
Human Resources Directorate	8,246.5	21	0
Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate	4,621.9	49	16
	30,111.2	**170**	**17**
STATUTORY SUPPORT SERVICES TO PARLIAMENTARIANS	**53,983.4**		
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTION ACT	**173.1**		
FIXED ASSETS DEPRECIATION	**5,282.1**		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**113,980.0**	**563**	**71**

* Authorized FTEs (full time equivalents)

APPENDICES

BILLS PASSED

The initialism in the second column identifies the parliamentary committee that considered the bill. The committees are identified as follows:

Committee of the Whole (CW)
Committee on the National Assembly (CNA)
Committee on Culture (CC)
Committee on Public Administration (CPA)
Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (CAFF)
Committee on Planning and the Public Domain (CPP)
Committee on Labour and the Economy (CLE)
Committee on Education (CE)
Committee on Social Affairs (CSA)
Committee on Public Finance (CPF)
Committee on Institutions (CI)
Committee on Transportation and the Environment (CTE)

37th Legislature – 2nd Session
Bills passed between 1 April 2006 and 21 February 2007[1]

Government Bills (passed)

1	CPF	An Act to reduce the debt and establish the Generations Fund
2	CI	Legal Time Act
3		Appropriation Act No. 1, 2006-2007
4	CI	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Office Québec-Amériques pour la jeunesse and the Act respecting the Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse
5	CPF	An Act to amend various legislative provisions of a fiscal nature
6	CI	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Barreau du Québec
7	CPF	An Act to amend the Chartered Accountants Act
8	CSA	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère de la Famille et de l'Enfance and other legislative provisions
9	CTE	An Act to amend the Act respecting off-highway vehicles
10	CW	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation
11	CC	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Conservatoire de musique et d'art dramatique du Québec
12	CAFF	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Bureau d'accréditation des pêcheurs et des aides-pêcheurs du Québec
13	CLE	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère du Développement économique et régional et de la Recherche and other legislative provisions
14	CI	An Act to amend the Professional Code as regards the issue of permits
15	CPF	An Act to amend the Taxation Act and other legislative provisions
16	CI	An Act to amend the Act respecting Cree, Inuit and Naskapi Native persons and other legislative provisions
17	CPF	An Act respecting contracting by public bodies
18		Appropriation Act No. 2, 2006-2007

1 The 37th Legislature was dissolved on 21 February 2007.

19	CPP	An Act to establish the Sports and Physical Activity Development Fund
20	CC	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications
21	CPP	An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning municipal affairs
22	CI	An Act to amend the Election Act to encourage and facilitate voting
23	CTE	An Act to ensure the enlargement of Parc national du Mont-Orford, the preservation of the biodiversity of adjacent lands and the maintenance of recreational tourism activities
24	CAFF	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation and the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu
25	CI	An Act to amend the Crime Victims Compensation Act and other legislative provisions
26	CW	An Act to amend the Act respecting the National Assembly and the Act respecting the conditions of employment and the pension plan of the Members of the National Assembly
27	CPF	An Act respecting the Commission administrative des régimes de retraite et d'assurances
28	CW	An Act to amend the Pay Equity Act
29	CPF	An Act to amend the Securities Act and other legislative provisions
30	CSA	An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act, particularly with respect to the funding and administration of pension plans
31	CW	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Société nationale du cheval de course
32	CE	An Act to amend the Act respecting school elections and the Education Act
33	CSA	An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services and other legislative provisions
34	CE	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Conseil supérieur de l'éducation and other legislative provisions
37	CW	An Act respecting the provision of health services by medical specialists
38	CLE	An Act to amend the Act respecting the lands in the domain of the State and other legislative provisions
39	CC	An Act to proclaim Black History Month
40	CLE	An Act to amend the Act respecting industrial accidents and occupational diseases and the Workers' Compensation Act
41	CPF	An Act to again amend the Taxation Act and other legislative provisions
42	CAFF	An Act to amend the Act respecting the marketing of agricultural, food and fish products as regards the deposit of guarantees of financial liability
43	CE	An Act to amend the Education Act and the Act respecting municipal taxation
44	CPF	An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning retirement
46	CPF	Cooperative Investment Plan Act
47	CPF	An Act to amend the Act respecting the enterprise registrar and other legislative provisions

48	CI	An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act and the Act respecting the collection of certain debts
49	CLE	An Act to amend the Forest Act and other legislative provisions and providing for special provisions applicable to the Territory of application of chapter 3 of the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between Le Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec for the Years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008
50	CI	An Act respecting the Centre de la francophonie des Amériques
51	CLE	An Act to amend the Labour Code and other legislative provisions
52	CLE	An Act respecting the implementation of the Québec Energy Strategy and amending various legislative provisions
53	CPF	An Act respecting the governance of state-owned enterprises and amending various legislative provisions
55	CPP	An Act to again amend various legislative provisions respecting municipal affairs
57	CLE	An Act to amend the Act respecting hours and days of admission to commercial establishments
58	CI	An Act respecting the committee on the remuneration of the judges of the Court of Québec and the municipal courts
80	CI	An Act to amend the Police Act
86	CC	An Act to amend the Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information and other legislative provisions
88	CI	Private Security Act
118	CTE	Sustainable Development Act
125	CSA	An Act to amend the Youth Protection Act and other legislative provisions
137	CAFF	An Act respecting reserved designations and added value claims

Public Bills at the stage of passage in principle

56		An Act to amend the Professional Code and other legislative provisions
59		An Act to establish the Fund for the promotion of a healthy lifestyle
61		An Act to implement the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment and the Protocol to the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment on Matters Specific to Aircraft Equipment
62		An Act to amend the Police Act
63		An Act respecting the Compilation of Québec Laws and Regulations
64		An Act to amend the Professional Code and the Chartered Accountants Act in respect of public accountancy
65		An Act to amend the Act to foster the development of manpower training and other legislative provisions

Public Bills at the stage of clause-by-clause consideration in committee

36	CI	An Act respecting the forfeiture, administration and appropriation of proceeds and instruments of unlawful activities
45	CSA	An Act to amend various legislative provisions concerning health
54	CI	An Act to amend the Professional Code and the Pharmacy Act
76	CPP	An Act to repeal the Act respecting the Commission municipale and to amend various legislative provisions
89	CSA	An Act respecting clinical and research activities as regards assisted human reproduction and amending other legislative provisions
99	CLE	An Act to amend the Act respecting the leasing of part of the water power of the Shipshaw River

Private Members' Public Bills (passed)

197	CW	An Act to facilitate organ donation

Private Members' Public Bills at the stage of passage in principle

190	An Act respecting the procedure for selecting persons to be appointed by the National Assembly and amending the Act respecting the National Assembly
191	An Act to provide a fixed date for the election of Members of the National Assembly as of 16 April 2007
193	An Act to amend the Auditor General Act
194	An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act
195	An Act to again amend the Auditor General Act
196	An Act to impose a moratorium in order to preserve the religious heritage
198	An Act to amend the Act respecting labour standards
199	An Act to amend the Transport Act
390	An Act to prohibit the distribution of non-biodegradable plastic bags
391	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Government and Public Employees Retirement Plan
392	An Act to proclaim the International Day of Peace
393	An Act to proclaim Hellenic Heritage Month

Private Bills (passed)

200	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Québec
201	CPP	An Act respecting Municipalité de Pointe-à-la-Croix
202	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu
205	CPP	An Act respecting Municipalité de Cacouna
206	CPF	An Act respecting the pension plan of certain employees of the Commission scolaire de la Capitale

207	CC	An Act respecting Le Parc Co-ownership
208	CPF	An Act respecting the demutualization of Sherbrooke Vie, société de secours mutuels
209	CPP	An Act respecting the Agence de développement de Saint-Donat
211	CE	An Act to amend the Act to incorporate Sir George Williams University
212	CI	An Act to again amend the charter of La Communauté des Sœurs de Charité de la Providence
213	CSA	An Act respecting the Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal
214	CPP	An Act to amend the charter of the City of Laval
215	CSA	An Act to amalgamate the Mackay Rehabilitation Centre and The Montreal Association for the Blind under the name MAB-Mackay Rehabilitation Centre / Centre de réadaptation MAB-Mackay (*modified title*)

Private Bills at the stage of clause-by-clause consideration

204	CPP	An Act to amend the Act respecting the Municipalité régionale de comté du Haut-Richelieu
210	CPP	An Act respecting an immovable of the cadastre of the township of Letellier
216	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Lévis
231	CPP	An Act respecting Ville de Portneuf
233	CI	An Act respecting La Compagnie du cimetière Saint-Charles

MANDATES CARRIED OUT BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Subcommittee on Parliamentary Reform

Discussion within the framework of the parliamentary reform process

Committee on Public Administration

Accountability of deputy ministers and chief executive officers of public bodies concerning:

- the annual management report 2004-2005 (Family, Seniors and Status of Women)
- follow-up of Committee proceedings regarding mental health services (Health and Social Services)
- food inspection (chapter 2, volume I, Auditor General's report 2005-2006) (Agriculture, Fisheries and Food)
- the annual management report 2005-2006 (Labour)
- the annual management report 2005-2006 (Office de la protection du consommateur)
- the cadastral reform (chapter 4, volume I, Auditor General's report 2005-2006) (Natural Resources and Wildlife)
- the technical aids programmes for disabled persons (chapter 6, volume II, Auditor General's report 2005-2006) (Health and Social Services, Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec, Institut de réadaptation en déficience physique de Québec and Institut de réadaptation de Montréal)

- the annual management report 2005-2006 (Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade)

Examination of financial commitments

Other mandate:

- Hearing of the Auditor General within the framework of the examination of his annual management report 2005-2006 and the examination of his financial commitments for the months of April 2005 to March 2006

Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Clause-by-clause consideration: 3 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2006-2007

Consultation:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 24, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation and the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu

Order of initiative:

- Hear the comments and suggestions of certain agencies following the report on the issues arising with regard to food safety in Québec (continuation)

Other mandate:

- Election of the Committee vice-chairman

Committee on Social Affairs

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills, 2 private bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2006-2007

Interpellation:

- The state of the health and social services network

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 33, An Act to amend the Act respecting health services and social services and other legislative provisions
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 30, An Act to amend the Supplemental Pension Plans Act, particularly with respect to the funding and administration of pension plans
- General consultation in regard to the document entitled "Guaranteeing Access Meeting the Challenges of Equity, Efficiency and Quality"

Other mandates:

- Hearing of the Institut national de santé publique du Québec within the framework of the examination of its financial statements and annual management reports for the fiscal years ended 31 March 2004, 2005 and 2006; of the examination of its orientation, activities and management; and on the Government's response plans for public health protection against the West Nile virus
- Hearing of the Capitale-Nationale, Laval, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Côte-Nord, Montréal, Laurentides, Lanaudière and Montérégie Health and Social Services Agencies within the framework of the examination of their annual management reports or annual activity reports 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, pursuant to the Act respecting health services and social services (R.S.Q., c. S-4.2, s. 392)

Committee on Planning and the Public Domain

Clause-by-clause consideration: 3 public bills, 6 private bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2006-2007

Surveillance of agencies:

- Société d'habitation du Québec (continuation)

Committee on Culture

Clause-by-clause consideration: 4 public bills, 1 private bill

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2006-2007

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 86, An Act to amend the Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information and other legislative provisions (continuation)
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 11, An Act to amend the Act respecting the Conservatoire de musique et d'art dramatique du Québec
- General consultation in regard to the document entitled "Toward a government policy to combat racism and discrimination"
- General consultation within the framework of the examination of the report on the implementation of the Act respecting the Conseil des aînés

Order of initiative:

- Québec's religious heritage (continuation)

Committee on Education

Clause-by-clause consideration: 3 public bills, 1 private bill

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2006-2007

Interpellation:

- The future of education in Québec

Surveillance of agencies:

- Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial

Order of initiative:

- The school success of Natives

Other mandate:

- Hearing of the heads of university level institutions in pursuance of the provisions of the Act respecting educational institutions at the university level (R.S.Q., c. E-14.1)

Committee on Labour and the Economy

Clause-by-clause consideration: 8 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2006-2007

Interpellations:

- Québec's energy policy
- The economic future of the resource regions
- The Québec Government's economic development strategy

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 52, An Act respecting the implementation of the Québec Energy Strategy and amending various legislative provisions

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 57, An Act to amend the Act respecting hours and days of admission to commercial establishments
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of Hydro-Québec's Strategic Plan 2006-2010
- Special consultations within the framework of the examination of the Evaluation Report of the Bureau d'évaluation médicale

Surveillance of agencies:

- Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail
- Commission des lésions professionnelles

Committee on Public Finance

Clause-by-clause consideration: 12 public bills, 2 private bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2006-2007

Interpellation:

- The transparency of public finance

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 27, An Act respecting the Commission administrative des régimes de retraite et d'assurances
- Special consultations in regard to the policy statement entitled "Modernizing the Governance of Government Corporations"

Order of initiative:

- The protection of investors in Québec

Other mandate:

- Continuation of the debate on the Budget Speech

Committee on Institutions

Clause-by-clause consideration: 14 public bills, 1 private bill

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2006-2007

Interpellations:

- The state of justice in Québec
- The Liberal Government's constitutional position

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 25, An Act to amend the Crime Victims Compensation Act and other legislative provisions
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 36, An Act respecting the forfeiture, administration and appropriation of proceeds and instruments of unlawful activities
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 48, An Act to amend the Consumer Protection Act and the Act respecting the collection of certain debts
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 54, An Act to amend the Professional Code and the Pharmacy Act

Committee on Transportation and the Environment

Clause-by-clause consideration: 3 public bills

Examination of the estimates of expenditure 2006-2007

Consultations:

- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 23, An Act to ensure the enlargement of Parc national du Mont-Orford, the preservation of the biodiversity of adjacent lands and the maintenance of recreational tourism activities
- Special consultations within the framework of the consideration of Bill 9, An Act to amend the Act respecting off-highway vehicles

Orders of initiative:

- Road safety in Québec (continuation)
- The impact of climate warming in Northern Québec

Other mandate:

- Hearing of the chief executive officer of the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec within the framework of the proposal to increase contributions released by the SAAQ

Select Committee

Consultation:

- Special consultations on the draft bill replacing the Election Act

ALLOWANCES GRANTED TO MEMBERS

Wage bill of members:

Regular remuneration (includes base allowance and additional allowance)	$10,988,330

Other allowances:

Allowances for expenses, attendance and allowances for political activities	$2,696,279
Transition allowances (includes allowances granted when a Member leaves)	$3,980,538
Travel from electoral division to the Parliament Building	$993,802
Lodging in or around Québec City	$1,384,072
Additional allowance for the purchase of furniture and office equipment during the first term of office	$8013
Electoral division office operation expenses	$4,258,480

Other expenses:	Members' staff	Office of Members holding parliamentary functions	Total
Wage bill	$12,013,349	$5,746,274	$17,759,623
Travel expenses	$323,746	$540,222	$863,968
Research services of political parties			$1,799,543

MANDATES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

The Secretary General is the highest-ranking public servant of the Assembly and chief advisor to the President and the deputation in the interpretation of parliamentary procedure. The Secretary General oversees and manages the personnel of the Assembly, sees to the administration of routine business and carries out the other duties that are assigned to him by the Office of the National Assembly, of which he is the secretary.

The Office Secretariat and General Secretariat Directorate sees to the organization and follow-up of the proceedings of the Office and informs the Members concerning their working conditions and the services that are available to them. It also assists the Secretary General in the routine administration of his office, in addition to coordinating and carrying out institutional mandates and projects.

The Legal and Legislative Affairs Directorate advises the Assembly in legal matters and provides all professional services regarding the drafting of private Members' public bills and private bills.

The Protocol and Visitor Services Directorate coordinates protocol activities and ceremonies at the Assembly and is responsible for visitor and information services, as well as for guided tours.

The Interparliamentary and International Relations Directorate advises Assembly authorities on interparliamentary and international relations and coordinates the activities of the Assembly in this area.

The Security Directorate advises Assembly authorities on all security and safety measures and is responsible for the safety of persons and property as well as for the security of buildings and offices of the Assembly.

The Associate General Secretariat for Parliamentary Affairs and Procedure coordinates, plans, and supervises the activities of the parliamentary sector and assists the Secretary General in his role as advisor on the proceedings of the Assembly and the parliamentary committees. It provides the professional expertise in the field of parliamentary jurisprudence and carries out studies in doctrine.

The Library Directorate is responsible for the conservation of parliamentary documents and the management and retrieval of archives. It maintains a collection meeting the needs of current and future users. It offers various reference, press documentation and research services to parliamentarians and to the administrative units of the National Assembly.

The Assembly Secretariat Directorate prepares, ensures the proper conduct of and follows up on the sittings of the Assembly. It assists the Secretary General in the preparation and coordination of the opening and closing of sessions.

The Committees Secretariat Directorate provides all professional and administrative services required by parliamentary committees for the organization and conduct of their activities.

The Legislative Translation and Publishing Directorate provides all professional and technical services as regards the translation, revision, publishing and printing of legislative texts and answers the translation needs of other administrative units.

The Associate General Secretariat for Administration and Information plans, directs, coordinates and supervises the activities of the administrative and information sector directorates, in addition to providing all professional and technical services associated thereto. It assists and advises the Secretary General in his role as manager of administrative affairs as well as on digital information security.

The General Information Directorate plans, directs, coordinates and supervises the activities of the communications, broadcasting and publishing of debates and educational programmes directorates. It assists the Secretary General in his responsibilities for the outreach initiatives of the Assembly and coordinates the activities planned for the 400th anniversary of Québec City.

The Communications Directorate promotes outreach by informing the public on the democratic role of the Assembly. It is responsible for the institution's communications and public relations. It provides graphic design, publishing, drafting and revision services as well as an information service to Press Gallery journalists.

The Debates Broadcasting and Publishing Directorate coordinates the television broadcasting of the parliamentary debates, press conferences and certain special events, as well as the audio recording of the parliamentary proceedings for the transcription, revision, editing and production of the Journal des débats (Hansard).

The Educational Programmes Directorate coordinates the development, organization and conduct of educational programmes and materials for target clienteles and provides professional and technical support for the organization and conduct of parliamentary simulations.

The Building Management and Telecommunications Directorate advises Assembly authorities and provides goods and services for the management and furnishings of buildings, and telecommunications.

The Computer Services Directorate guides, advises and provides services regarding computer and electronic office systems (software, applications, equipment, training) and manages the computer population and the local and extended networks.

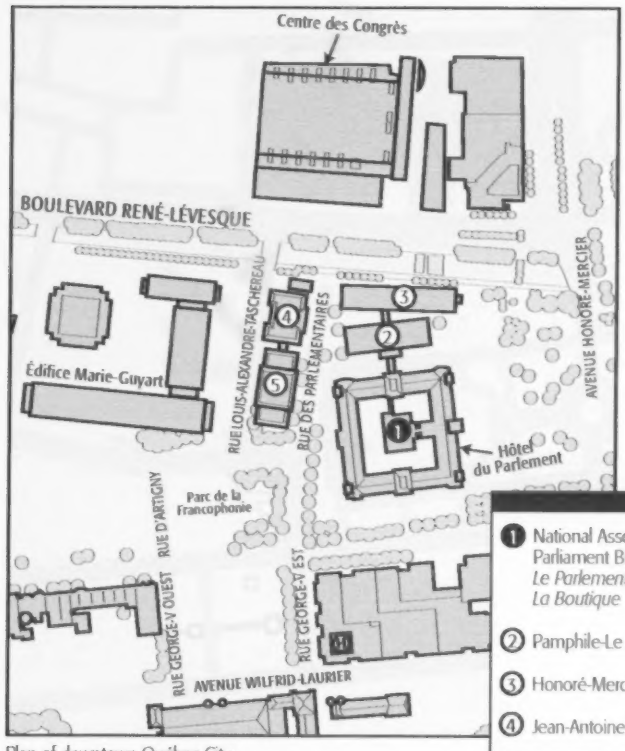
The Planning and Development Directorate provides support to Assembly authorities as regards the achievement of strategic objectives. It develops a management framework as well as significant evaluation indicators in addition to coordinating the implementation of policies and programmes in the area of human resource management planning.

The Financial Resources, Procurement and Audit Directorate advises and provides services relating to financial management, budget preparation and accounting operations. It also dispenses procurement services.

The Human Resources Directorate is responsible for all operations and support and counselling services relating to human resources management for the benefit of the administrative units and the parliamentarians.

The Material Resources and Restaurants Directorate provides support services to the parliamentarians and the administrative units, particularly as regards mail delivery and messenger services, printing and photocopying, office supplies and the distribution of parliamentary documents. It is also responsible for food services and the management of the restaurants.

SOME PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Plan of downtown Québec City
Parliament Hill – buildings and parking areas

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
Parliament Building
Québec City (Québec) G1A 1A3

General information
Telephone: 418 643-7239
Toll-free number: 1 866 DÉPUTÉS
(1 866 337-8837)
Fax: 418 641-2638
www.assnat.qc.ca

GUIDED TOURS
Schedule*
Monday to Friday: from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
From 25 June to Labour Day: Monday to Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays: from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Reservations are required for groups of 10 persons or more.

OUTDOOR GUIDED TOURS
From June to September: everyday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Information
Telephone: 418 643-7239
Fax: 418 641-2638
E-mail: accueil@assnat.qc.ca

***LE PARLEMENTAIRE* RESTAURANT**
Opening hours*
From Monday to Friday: from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Reservations
Telephone: 418 643-6640
Fax: 418 643-6378
E-mail: resto@assnat.qc.ca

LA BOUTIQUE
Opening hours*
From Monday to Friday: from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
From 24 June to Labour Day: also open weekends, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Information
Telephone: 418 643-8785
Fax: 418 528-6022
E-mail: laboutique@assnat.qc.ca

Division of the reproduction
and printing works
June 2007

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF QUÉBEC
PARLIAMENT BUILDING

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